

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

January 20, 2005

The Minority Education Concerns Committee met on Thursday, January 20, 2005, at 12:00 in Room #202 at the ASD Administration Building.

Prior to the start of the meeting, two School Board members stopped in to make brief remarks to the group. Macon Roberts and John Steiner both asked the committee to give input to the Board about special events involving the minority communities and to speak to their communities as to what the School Board needs to do for minorities in the District.

While the Committee waited for enough members to constitute a quorum, they discussed testing. There will be new testing this year, as science is added to the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. The percentage of students who did not pass the Exit exam last year was actually quite small. The question was asked, "What about students who dropped out without taking the exam?" It was suggested that the Curriculum committee look into this.

Atisa Logo told the group about a meeting scheduled for the Controversial Issues Review Committee (CIRC). They will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26 at 6th & K to discuss The House of Spirits, a required book for Advanced Placement English classes. Along with excerpts from the book, Ms. Logo gave the members a copy of the official request from James Gudaitis for re-evaluation of the book,

The group had several questions about the guidelines used in choosing books for special classes. Is there a document that lists what they review and do they sign off? Who is on the committee? Helen Sharratt suggested the Curriculum Committee consider looking at those books required in AP classes, rather than textbooks.

The Committee asked that Enid Hunter, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Support, provide a list at the beginning of the school year of those texts being considered for adoption.

The members discussed how they could share what MECC learns with the rest of the community. Diane Heard feels it is important to have meaningful dialogue

between MECC and the School Board. Helen Sharratt said it was important to know just what the Board's expectations are of the MECC. What are their roles?

Diane applauds ASD for having a Minority Education Concerns Committee, but the committee can't be effective without regular attendance of its members. Diane suggested a new attendance procedure for members. She suggested that William send out a message to all members prior to the regularly scheduled meeting asking them to call to let him know whether, or not, they are planning to attend the meeting. If the group will not have a quorum, the rest of the committee would be notified and the meeting canceled. The Board and the Superintendent will know just how many meetings are canceled due to lack of a quorum.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by William Johnson when a quorum was reached.

Members Present

William Johnson  
Atisa Logo  
Diane Heard  
Helen Sharratt

Alfredia Tyler  
Phyllis Morrell

Excused

Skip Hrin

Members Absent

Jesse Vizcocho  
Angela Jimenez  
Charlene Gibbs  
Richard Benavides

Others Present

Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Diane Heard  
Seconded by Atisa Logo

to approve the agenda for the  
January 20, 2005, meeting

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by Phyllis Morrell  
Seconded by Atisa Logo

to approve the minutes from the  
November 18, 2004, meeting

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 22 Alternative School Fair @ Dimond Center

January 24 ASD Inservice Day

January 25 National Assessment of Educational Progress for all 4th  
graders

January 26 Controversial Issues Review Committee at 6th & K

January 28 Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference @ Egan Center  
All members are invited and encouraged to drop in.

February 3 & 4 Alaska State Spelling Bee  
William recommended watching the movie Spellbound

February 8 - 11 Terra Nova and CAT testing

Phyllis will be working with Wendler Middle School and Muldoon  
Elementary School for the next eight weeks through collaboration with  
Junior Achievement/Workplace Development/ Anchorage School District

5. Diane respectfully proposed that a letter of congratulations from the Superintendent and the President of the School Board could be sent to the employers of members selected to sit on the MECC Committee. The letter could serve as an expression of appreciation of service and commitment by thanking them for allowing the employee to serve on the MECC and attend one meeting a month, on the third Thursday from 12:00-1:30. The letter would recognize the person who has been selected and also let the employer know how important it is to support the member and allow them to attend the meetings. She asked if this could be done for both current and future members.

6. Since the group had a quorum at this point, they took the following action:

Diane Heard moved that ten calendar days prior to the regularly scheduled MECC meeting the Chair send an e-mail reminder to members requiring a response within three business days of attendance or non-attendance. Without a quorum, the meeting will be canceled. Helen Sharratt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The new procedure will become effective immediately.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monitoring – Diane said the committee had been reviewing the suspension/expulsion reports

Curriculum – No report

Outreach – Helen presented her suggestions for the Outreach goal

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.