

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 17, 2005

The Minority Education Concerns Committee met on Thursday, February 17, 2005, at 12:00 in Room #202 in the ASD Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by William Johnson

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Diane Heard
Charlene Gibbs

Helen Sharratt
Phyllis Morrell
Angela Jimenez
Alfredia Tyler

Excused

Skip Hrin
Richard Benavides
Jesse Vizcocho

Others Present

Gail Opalinski, Executive Director, Middle School Education
Debbie Bogart, Director, Community Education
Maxine Hill, Supervisor, Bilingual/Multicultural Education
Beth Hartley, Bilingual/Multicultural Specialist
Barbara Jones, Executive Director, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission
Natalie Burnett, Principal, Eagle river High School
Julie Vincek and Stan Mayra, Safe and Drug Free Schools
Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Helen Sharratt
Seconded by Charlene Gibbs

to approve the agenda for the
February 17, 2005, meeting

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by Diane Heard to approve the minutes from the
Seconded by Alfredia Tyler January 20, 2005, meeting

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Debbie Bogart reported to the Committee on the Multicultural Student Leadership Conference that was held on January 28 at the Egan Center. Diane Heard attended the conference and had very positive comments to add. She wrote thank you notes to Wells Fargo and Anchorage Youth Court on behalf of MECC. Helen Sharratt, Atisa Logo, and William Johnson also attended the event.
5. Beth Hartley presented the *High Point* Materials recommended for use in the middle school ESL (English as a Second Language) Reading Foundations and ESL language arts classes. They will be taking these materials to the School Board for adoption in April. The program was field-tested starting in October 2004 at Mears Middle School and the newcomer's Center. She shared the results with the committee and left texts for the MECC Curriculum Committee to examine.
6. Barbara Jones, along with Kevin Holmes and Debbie Fullenwider, spoke to the Committee about their work researching hate crimes in Anchorage. Diane Heard asked if hate crimes are within a culture as well as across cultures. The answer was, "Yes, they can be." The group brought two booklets to share with the Committee: 101 Tools for Tolerance and Ten Ways to Fight Hate. Helen Sharratt strongly suggested that the materials be distributed to ASD schools through the counselors. Phyllis Morrell suggested that workshops would be another effective way to reach students. Ms. Jones said hate groups are growing, particularly targeting young white males. Phyllis mentioned the Letters to the Editor in the *Anchorage Daily News* that are targeting specific groups.
7. Stan Mayra and Julie Vincek talked about the Change of Heart training that Safe and Drug Free Schools is currently doing in the Anchorage School District. The overall purpose of the "Change of Heart" training is to create a more respectful, supportive and caring school environment by building relationships between everyone in the school community. This training empowers students to create a more positive school climate by how they treat and interact with others. Students leave the training realizing their individual

potential, the "Power of One", and how they can make a difference in the lives of others.

8. Natalie Burnett shared information about the new Eagle River High School. The building is about 80 percent completed and is expected to be ready for students on August 5. They plan to open with 800 students. Students who formerly attended Bartlett and Chugiak high schools and Gruening and Central middle schools will make up the enrollment.

Gail Opalinski said that Middle School Education is forming a task force to take a look at moving the Ft. Rich students currently at Central Middle School to Gruening Middle School.

9. Angela Jimenez brought the group up-to-date on the Economic Development in Mountain View. She also, reluctantly, tendered her resignation from MECC, due to the additional roles that she has taken on.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05