

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES
May 19, 2005

The Minority Education Concerns Committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 12:00 in Room 320 in the ASD Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Alfredia Tyler
Diane Heard

Absent

Richard Benavides
Phyllis Morrell

Helen Sharrett has resigned according to MECC bylaws because she has begun substituting for the Anchorage School District. Mr. Johnson expressed his gratitude for her service to MECC. The committee now has six members.

Others Present

Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Tim Steele, School Board Member
Dr. Enid Hunter, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instructional Support
Rhonda Gardner, NCLB Coordinator
Sandy Schoff, Coordinator, District Math Program
Mike Martinson, Supervisor, Music Department
Stella Huffer, Substitute for Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Diane Heard to approve the agenda, for the
May 19, 2005 meeting.

Seconded by Alfredia Tyler

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION:

Moved by Alfredia Tyler to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2005, meeting.

Seconded by William Johnson

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Johnson announced that the Committee is accepting applications for membership with a deadline of June 1. He said the information is out in the community and that the application is presently on the ASD Website for community members who are interested

Mr. Johnson suggested that committee members attend a graduation ceremony if they know someone who is graduating.

The "Get Up and Go" event to encourage exercise for school-age children will be held at the Sullivan Arena on May 22. Ms. Christensen told the Committee that there is a twelve-week competition within the District where teams of seven will log daily exercise minutes.

Ms. Christensen officially welcomed Mr. Steele to the committee. Mr. Steele said he requested to be placed on the MECC and is pleased to be able to participate.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Math Textbook Adoption: Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus

Sandy Schoff introduced the Pre-Calculus and Calculus books that are being recommended for Advanced Placement classes. Calculus AB will be used for the first and second semesters and Calculus CD for the third and fourth semesters. Copies of the book will be in the MECC box. The books are strongly integrated with technology. Ms Christensen said part of the AP grant that goes before the Board for Bartlett and Clark will encourage diversity and encourage minorities to enroll in AP classes. Part of the grant will teach them what they need to do to prepare for those classes. This is a nationwide goal to get more minorities into AP classes. Ms Schoff said ASD has a very articulate program in place. Support from parents, community expectations, NCLB require testing at third grade level, minority role modes, and parental knowledge of the process and funding all contribute to the success of the student.

Draft, Culturally Responsive 6-year Plan

Dr. Hunter and Ms. Gardner presented the Six-Year Plan for Cultural Responsiveness. The intent is to take the culturally responsive standards that have been set by the state and continue to develop performance indicators so teachers and students are aware of the standards. Dr. Hunter asked the Committee to read page seven and provide feedback

Instrumental Music Textbook Adoption Committee: Elementary Band Method

Mr. Martinson explained the process for choosing the textbook for elementary band and orchestra. The criteria included songs from all cultures, religious material, gender and price. The Standard of Excellence series has an evaluation process, computer curriculum and a CD that is not copyrighted and can be copied and shared. About 2/3 of the schools will begin next year and a gradual change over through the local stores who have supplies of materials used by ASD students so that the financial impact will not have a negative affect on their sales. Mr. Martinson said that there are instruments available for students who cannot afford one. No student is turned away because they cannot get an instrument.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

Update of membership list and quorum standard:

The are currently six committee members, with a 51 percent quorum needed. No applications have been received. Ms. Christensen said she would check with Michelle Egan on contacting public organizations and possibly extending the deadline.

Name change: Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee -

Ms. Heard moved to change MECC to the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee to reflect the purpose to ourselves and to the community at large. Ms. Logo seconded the motion and it passed. It (MECAC) will become effective for the 2005/2006 school year upon Board approval.

Minority Education Concerns Committee Forums

Mr. Johnson handed out a draft memo to send to specific minority groups inviting them to take part in the forum. A lengthy discussion took place for changes to be made regarding the letter to make sure the Committee puts its best foot forward. A timeline should be included on the letter. Ms. Heard suggested that mention of the application should be included in the letter, including a clause stating that attendance at meetings is required. She also advised distributing the applications to churches and other community gatherings. The application is on the Website and was printed in the newspaper.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Heard said the Monitoring Subcommittee met on February 2 and March 30 to prepare a draft of their report and will have the final report available in June.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee has been busy with the social studies textbook adoption. Comments were submitted to the Board for Section 450.

Mr. Johnson gave the Outreach Subcommittee credit for developing the forum.

7. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.