

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES
October 20, 2005

The Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee met on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 12:00 in Room #320 in the ASD Administration Building.

Since this was the first meeting for the new members, introductions were made. Mr. Johnson asked if anyone had any comments. Mr. Loring reminded the group that the challenges are great and the expectation high for MECAC and we need to set up the meeting so that there is enough time to accomplish the tasks at hand. Members of the Committee need to commit the time and energy necessary to be successful. They need to have meaningful dialogue with the Executive Directors and the School Board in order to ask the tough questions and offer solutions to the problems facing minority students.

Mr. Johnson said the time commitment was not only the hour and a half monthly meeting time, but also the hours spent doing sub-committee work. The subcommittees work through the details and present their recommendations to the whole group for a decision.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Angelina Burney
Dan Loring
Karen Jenkins

Excused

Damita Owen

Absent

Phyllis Morrell
Alfredia Tyler
Richard Benavides
Charisse Millett

Others Present

Tim Steele, School Board member
Mike Henry, Executive Director, High School Education
Margo Bellamy, EEO Director
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

Mr. Johnson announced that new member Mani Phaophong had notified him that she is now employed by the Anchorage School District. MECAC Guidelines say that an employee of the District cannot serve on the committee, so Ms. Phaophong resigned her position. This leaves one unfilled

position on the Committee. Mr. Johnson said the Committee would move forward with the ten members and address the open position later.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Dan Loring to approve the agenda, for the October 20, 2005 meeting

Seconded by Angelina Burney

Mr. Loring commented that he would like to see a place at the beginning of the agenda for parents and guests to speak. He also said that he felt the focus of MECAC should be on academic achievement issues.

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by Atisa Logo to approve the minutes, for the September 22, 2005 meeting

Seconded by Karen Jenkins

Mr. Loring asked about the proposed name change. Mr. Johnson explained that the memo would go forward at the October 24, 2005 Board Meeting. The proposed name is Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee.

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Steele suggested that the members try to attend one of the upcoming Budget Development Process Town Hall Meetings. The meetings are from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- November 1, 2005 @ Mears MPR
- November 2, 2005 @ Wendler MPR
- November 3, 2005 @ Girdwood MPR
- November 8, 2005 @ CHS Cafeteria

Copies of the Profile of Performance were given to the members.

Atisa reminded everyone of the meeting October 20 at 7:00 at East High School for students and parents to learn about scholarships and preparation for college. The meeting is open to all interested students and parents.

Mr. Loring had several announcements. There is a NAACP meeting Friday night, October 21 at 6:00 at the John Thomas Building on 3rd and Cordova. February 8-10 in Fairbanks is the 32nd Annual Education Equity Conference. He asked that this be an agenda item for discussion in the future.

Mr. Loring wanted to recognize Johnny Johnson, founder of Ebony Magazine, who recently passed away.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ID Pictures will be taken immediately following the November 17 meeting. Business Cards will also be available for members.

Mr. Johnson asked for input from the members as to the best time for them to meet. Currently the group meets at noon on the third Thursday of the month. Mr. Loring had tried to recruit many people from different ethnic groups who said they wouldn't be able to meet at noon. He asked Mr. Johnson to speak to each of the members individually to determine the best time for everyone to meet.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Johnson distributed the explanation of the three sub-committees.

Outreach Dan Loring
 Atisa Logo
 Angelina Burney

Monitoring Atisa Logo

Curriculum Phyllis Morrell
 Dan Loring
 Karen Jenkins

Mr. Steele asked the group to address the issue of parent involvement in terms of creating ideas and helping the School Board increase parent involvement. The School Board is interested in ways to get families involved in schools. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Logo said there had been discussion about a Clearinghouse of information and the possibility of setting up a separate committee specifically addressing parent involvement.

7. The Committee had requested the information from the September 14 meeting at the Central Lutheran Church on the Status of Education of Alaska

Native Students in Anchorage. Superintendent Comeau met with Alaska Native leaders, students and parents. Mr. Steele said that Ms. Comeau wanted to speak to the MECAC about the meeting.

8. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Attendance Areas (including elementary and middle school feeder schools)

Bartlett	Dan Loring
Chugiak	William Johnson
Dimond	
Eagle River	
East	Atisa Logo
Service	Angelina Burney
South	Karen Jenkins
West	Dan Loring

Mr. Steele reminded the Committee members that they although they take primary responsibility for an area and know the principals and issues in the schools in their area, they certainly should reach out and visit schools in other areas.

9. BROAD GOALS

Monitoring – trends in discipline, due process

Curriculum – Profile of Performance/Six Year Instructional Plan/Board Goals

Outreach – minority community as well as the community-at-large

Community Forums would be an opportunity to get input from community members

10. PROFILE OF PERFORMANCE

Mr. Steele cautioned the group that when reading the statistics in the Profile of Performance, they need to be aware of the fact that the State changed the tests this year. They are different tests with different cut-off scores. People also need to know that the Profile is based on School Board Goals. In most instances the District is moving forward.

Mr. Henry explained that the graduation rate is a reflection of the dropout rate. In the past, students who leave during the summer were not counted against the division because it was not known where they went. This year high schools had to count all of the students who didn't show up in the fall as dropouts. The graduation rate compares the numbers of students who enroll as freshmen to the numbers of students who actually graduate. The

difference is considered the dropout rate. Even fifth year seniors are counted as dropouts when considering the graduation rate.

He invited the members of the committee to contact any of the Executive Directors anytime whenever they have questions. The high school division is working very hard, one student at a time, to hold on to the students and help them achieve.

Ms. Bellamy reminded the committee that all of the ASD administrators are resources for the Committee.

11. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Johnson would like to have a retreat for all of the members. A retreat would provide quality time to discuss issues and allow members to get to know each other better.

Mr. Johnson emphasized the importance of the budget development process meetings. Mr. Steele invited everyone to get involved, come to the School Board meetings.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.