

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES
November 17, 2005

The Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 12:00 in Room #320 in the ASD Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Angelina Burney
Dan Loring
Karen Jenkins
Damita Owens
Charisse Millett

Absent

Phyllis Morrell
Alfredia Tyler
Richard Benavides

Others Present

Tim Steele, School Board member
Rhonda Gardner, Director, Accountability and School Improvement
Leslie Preston, Director, Community Services
Laurel Vorachek, Director, Testing and Assessment
Dr. Hirschberg, University of Alaska

2. The agenda was approved as presented
3. Mr. Loring said it would be helpful to have the minutes for review prior to the meeting, so as not to take valuable meeting time. Ms. Owen asked that the minutes reflect excused absences. Mr. Loring noted that he had asked for contact information of members. Mr. Johnson will ask Nancy Arnold to provide the information (in Ms. Haas' absence).

ACTION

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

Seconded by Angelina Burney

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Johnson introduced Dr. Diane Hirschberg, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. On December 1 at noon, Dr. Hirschberg will be giving a presentation on Alaska Native issues in education pre-Molly Hootch, and the role of race in policy-making. The presentation will take place on the 5th floor of the Diplomacy Building.

Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Hirschberg what she sees ahead for ASD as the minority population grows. She suggested that the committee needs to reach out to the community to learn about their comfort level. She advised MECAC not to ask what community members would recommend, but rather to ask them to be part of the conversation as to what can be done together.

5. Mr. Johnson called the meeting back to order and stated that Ms. Owen was excused from the October meeting so that this correction could be made to the minutes.
6. There were no subcommittee reports. Mr. Loring asked again for contact information for the other members.
7. NEW BUSINESS

Winter Retreat – Mr. Loring had positive comments about the last retreat and said he is looking forward to the next one.

Mr. Loring would like to go over the MECAC Guidelines and made a motion to meet with the School Board or the School Board representative to MECAC to discuss the Guidelines. Mr. Steele acknowledged that it has been some time since the Guidelines were approved. He said that last year's work on the MECAC Mission Statement clarified the purpose of the Committee. The only new piece since the original Guidelines were written is the Outreach Committee. He hasn't heard anything from any of the other Board members about wanting anything else. The Committee does not have the obligation to create a new effort, but to provide input on what the District should be doing to address concerns. He said the MECAC Chair needs to address the guidelines first, before going to the Board.

Ms. Millett seconded Mr. Loring's motion so the Committee could discuss it.

Ms. Owen did not support spending time to redefine the Guidelines. She said as long as a Board member is present at the meeting, they can provide any needed clarification.

Ms. Millett agreed with Ms. Owen.

