

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
April 20, 2006

The Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee met on Thursday, April 20, 2006, at 12:00 in Room #320 in the ASD Administration Building.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m.

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Dan Loring
Valerie Fletcher-Mitchell
Alfredia Tyler
Phyllis Morrell (by telephone)

Members Excused

Angelina Burney
Karen Jenkins
Richard Benavides
Damita Owen
Charisse Millett

Others Present

Tim Steele, School Board member
Rhonda Gardner, Director, Accountability/School Improvement
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Dan Loring to approve the agenda, for the
April 20, 2006, meeting

Seconded by Alfredia Tyler

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION

Moved by William Johnson to approve the minutes for the
March 16, 2006, meeting

Seconded by Dan Loring

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – No Report

Outreach – Mr. Loring said there had not been any formal meetings, but he has continued contacts.

Monitoring – No formal meetings, but Mr. Johnson said the committee would continue to look at the suspension/expulsion numbers and the balance between minority and majority students.

Mr. Steele reminded the committee that it requires a wide view to establish trends. Are higher numbers of suspensions due to more vigilance or more incidents?

Ms. Gardner stated that there is certainly more accountability and more tracking now than there ever has been.

There was much discussion about the issue of “hostile” parents. Mr. Loring asked who was labeling parents as hostile and exactly what does that mean. Mr. Steele explained that sometimes parents are given a No Trespass letter due to disruptive or violent behavior. The building administration determines what restrictions are placed on the parent. Mr. Johnson asked how a parent could turn things around once a school labels them as a problem. Mr. Loring encouraged the subcommittee to work hard on this issue.

5. Mr. Loring gave an update of his attendance at the meeting for the Hanshew parent; Ms. Vandergaw, Executive Director of Middle School Education; and Superintendent Comeau. He offered the support of the MECAC, but has not received any calls from the parent since the meeting. Mr. Loring felt the Superintendent did an excellent job of working through the issues with the parent.

6. SCHOOL BONDS

Mr. Steele told the group that since none of the school bonds passed, the District would have to go back and regroup with the legislature. Sand Lake and Chester Valley elementary schools are high on the state list for funding. The Board will have to take another look at how we package the bonds.

Ms. Fletcher-Mitchell expressed her disappointment that the bonds did not pass.

Mr. Loring addressed the issue of the tremendous increase in the cost of educating students, but the decrease in student success. How does the District enhance their ability to connect teachers and students and parents?

The School Board and Superintendent Comeau are flying to Juneau to meet with the State Legislature April 22 - April 25.

7. The MECAC said good-bye to Mrs. Christensen who is leaving the District to accept a superintendent position in Redwood City, California. They also had a birthday cake for Ms. Gardner.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.