

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

MINORITY EDUCATION CONCERNS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
June 15, 2006

The Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee met on Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 12:00 in Room #320 in the ASD Administration Building.

Members Present

William Johnson
Atisa Logo
Dan Loring
Valerie Fletcher-Mitchell
Alfredia Tyler
Damita Owen

Members Absent

Angelina Burney
Karen Jenkins
Richard Benavides
Charisse Millett

Others Present

Crystal Kennedy, School Board member
Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Michael Hansen, parent
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

Superintendent Comeau presented Certificates of Appreciation to the MECAC members.

Ms. Owen requested that MECAC meet twice a month. One meeting would be for sharing information and one meeting would be the business meeting, including action items. She supported Mr. Loring's recommendation that the group discuss their mission and time commitment. She also suggested an orientation packet for new members.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:25 when a quorum was present

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION

Moved by Damita Owen

to add the above items to the agenda
under New Business

Seconded by Atisa Logo

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved as amended.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach – Mr. Loring said the committee has not met, but members continue to explore how to reach more parents. He commented on the tremendous difference in the Polaris and Clark facilities, which certainly affects the attitudes of students, staff and parents. He hopes MECAC can meet the challenges ahead of them and have specific recommendations for the School Board.

Monitoring – No meetings

Curriculum – No meetings

Mr. Loring said a large piece of the puzzle to low academic achievement is the curriculum and delivery of the curriculum. He referred to a letter from a student to the editor in the Anchorage Daily News that was critical of the Alaska Studies course. Mr. Loring feels project-based education might be more fun, more relevant, and more useful. He would like the committee to research curriculum and make recommendations to the School Board to have more project-based education.

Ms. Kennedy suggested the committee have someone from Curriculum speak to the group about the Alaska Studies course. It is very project-based and has many speakers.

Ms. Comeau said there would be a meeting in the fall with all Alaska Studies teachers. Teacher training is important, but there has to be commitment by the student. The curriculum is project based and multi-media.

In response to other comments by Mr. Loring, she said transportation is provided for all high school to King Career Center. Anchorage School District SAT and ACT scores are better than ever. There is an achievement gap, but ASD is making progress.

Mr. Loring said a timely response from administration when requests are made would be appreciated.

Ms. Comeau told the group that the Profile of Performance is a very public document. The District is very aware of low-performing schools and is working very hard for those students.

Ms. Logo commented that the mixed responses to the Alaska Studies course come from different attitudes of the students.

5. Michael Hansen, parent of a special needs student, spoke to the Committee about what he feels is discrimination by the ASD Transportation Department.

Ms. Logo suggested that when a person attends the meeting to express concerns, they should present a written statement for everyone.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Loring made a motion to go into Executive Session before the election of officers. The motion died for lack of a second.

Nominations for Chair

Ms. Mitchell nominated Ms. Logo.

Mr. Loring nominated Ms. Owen.

Ms. Owen nominated Ms. Mitchell – she declined the nomination.

Nominations were closed.

Discussion

Mr. Loring asked for a statement of vision from each candidate.

Ms. Tyler said that next year they could do a vision statement, but this year, the committee should follow standard procedures.

Ms. Mitchell said that based on the reports and recommendations from the members during the year, the committee members should have a good understanding of the candidates.

Ms. Owen was elected MECAC Chair for the 2006-2007 school year.

ACTION

Moved by Dan Loring

Atisa Logo remain as Vice Chair for the
2006-2007 school year

Seconded by Valerie Mitchell

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously

7. Ms. Owen asked the group to discuss the additional meeting. After much discussion the following action was taken.

ACTION

Moved by Dan Loring

Seconded by Atisa Logo

...that the third Thursday from 12:00-1:00 continue to be the MECAC business meeting. The additional meeting for presenters will be on the first Wednesday of the month from 4:30-5:30.

VOTE

Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.