

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2008

Members Present:

Marie Husa
Fa'aana Tosi
Dan Loring
Lamin Jobarteh (5:00)
Dawnyale Bolds (5:25)
Damito Owen (6:15)

Others Present:

Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Margo Bellamy
Reem Sheikh (Mr. Jobarteh's guest)

Called to order at 4:35 by Fa'aana Tosi (no quorum)

Presentation:

Ms. Bellamy, EEO Director, presented the ASD Diversity Plan

Ms. Gardner shared the minutes of the last meeting, minutes of joint meeting with the school board and a picture of the website.

Mr. Loring talked about the May 7 Anchorage Daily News article on the post-secondary education report. Good work being done; lots of work to do. This committee needs to roll up its sleeve and get to work. The committee talks about customer service, but the committee has a long way to go on that point. He said he has had a hard time phone calls returned by other committee members.

To get the data the committee needs and to do the research takes work in this bureaucratic organization that makes change at the pace of evolution.

Ms. Sheikh asked about the screening process for committee members. How is their commitment judged?

Mr. Loring said there really isn't an effective process in place to assess future commitment.

The committee discussed the guidelines regarding the committee's ability to remove members.

Mr. Loring said the key to the future is education. The world is moving beyond us.

Ms. Sheikh has a presentation she would like to share regarding the state of Muslims in the Anchorage School District. She and Mr. Jobarteh share the presentation.

Recommendation

- invite members of the Muslim community in to provide training to staff
- have education classes about Islam to promote awareness
- provide multicultural training for staff – starting with administrators
- offer counseling services for Muslim students

There are nutritional/ dietary concerns with the school lunch menu. Muslims are willing to volunteer their time and money to resolve these issues. This is a very high priority item. The Muslim community wants to be part of the solution.

The committee discussed several incidents where Muslim students and parents felt they were treated unjustly. Mr. Loring asked if the current climate survey is effective. Perhaps MECAC should do its own survey.

Damito Owen arrived at 6:15 and a quorum was achieved.

Mr. Loring moved to approve the minutes from the April 10 meeting. Ms. Tosi seconded. All approved.

New Business – Election of Officers

Chair – Dawnyale Bolds

First Vice-Chair – Dr. James

Adjourned at 6:55