

Multicultural Education Concerns Advisory Committee  
June 18, 2009

INFORMAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Dr. Ellsworth James  
Polly Miller  
Lori Pickett  
Atisa Logo

Members Absent

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| James Beverly      | Dan Loring   |
| Lamin Jobarteh     | Damito Owen  |
| James LaBelle, Jr. | Fa'aana Tosi |
| Jonathan Larson    |              |

Others Present

Jeannie Mackie, School Board Member  
Christine Garbe, Supervisor, English Language Learners Program  
Margo Bellamy, Director, EEO  
Ruth Mount, Teacher Expert, Math  
Cheryl Volden, parent  
Ed Graff, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Marsha Haas, Executive Secretary, Instruction

Ms. Volden thanked the group for their assistance on an issue she had.

Ruth Mount presented the newly adopted text for the Middle School Math Support classes, "Mathematics Navigator". The text's research-based curriculum addresses students' misconceptions of mathematical concepts while engaging students in higher level thinking. The modules are aligned with ASD and Alaska Grade Level Equivalents. Because 25 percent to 30 percent of middle school students are not proficient in mathematics, the new program is designed to target individual learners and take them from where they are to a competent skill level. "Mathematics Navigator" also uses language strategies to help those students who are new English language learners. Dr. James and Ms. Pickett asked if there is any collaboration being done between the mathematics and reading departments, because student who have difficulty reading often have difficulty in math.

Sub-committee Reports

Ms. Pickett told the group that Mr. Loring would be the liaison between the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Multicultural Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC). She would like to see the sub-committee meetings on the calendar.

The committee would like to hold another retreat. Ms. Pickett volunteered to find a facilitator for the event.

#### Announcements

Ms. Pickett spoke to the members about the presentation by Dr. Brokenleg. Drawing from ancient aboriginal child rearing philosophy of children as “sacred beings”, Dr. Brokenleg offers families the practical strategies of raising children to grow and flourish in their communities. He addresses how parents, schools, and caregivers can help children meet their needs for attachment, achievement, autonomy, and altruism. Research shows that these elements are crucial to the development of resilience and inner strengths in children, enabling them to surmount difficult challenges in their lives. He spoke highly of ASD.

There was discussion about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The committee hopes that funds will be directed to support students with dyslexia and to help students develop coping skills.

There was no Quorum, so no business was conducted.

There is no MECAC meeting in July, and the August 20 meeting is moved to August 27 due to the start of school.