

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2020

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Kate LaPlaunt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in room Board Room via Zoom of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue via Zoom.

**2. Roll Call / Introductions**

Members present:

Heather Johnson  
Alyssa Quintyne  
Carol Jacoby  
Elizabeth Holm  
Bea Felter  
Malcolm McEwen  
Ellen Weiser

Administrative support present:

Shayna Ellingrud  
Kate LaPlaunt

Members Not in Attendance:

Denise Newman  
Katie Dabney (Excused)

Guest:

Helen Clark

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Bea Felter made a motion to adopt the agenda with flexibility. Rose O'Hara-Jolley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

Members reviewed the February 25, 2020 meeting minutes and Alyssa Quintyne made a motion to approve them. Heather Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Kristi McEwen, Fairbanks, AK

- i. Gave thanks for supporting land acknowledgement. Invitation to join Human and Civil Rights Committee
- ii. Resolution from ANE Parent Advisory Committee
- iii. Concern of School Board Member's anti-gay

**C. REPORTS**

1. Federal Programs

- i. Federal Programs is funded through grants. Federally regulated programs to identify and address learning, equity and opportunity gaps.
- ii. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Program available to students with academic learning gaps and socio-economic needs. During the COVID-19 there were over 1,000 students reached.
- iii. Created a student guide to online learning/meetings/zoom/google meets and shifted their program to remote learning during the summer to close the summer learning gap.
- iv. Alaska Native Education Program with over 1,000 students and families to carry out cultural activities.

- v. This summer ANE is paying a teacher for a summer virtual math camp.
  - vi. English Language Learner (ELL) hosted two parent meetings, and focused on culturally relevant ways to bring students and families together during the School Closure.
  - vii. Migrant Education program met with over 700+ students during the school closure. Their focus is on topics and interests of migrant students (outdoor and water survival, etc.).
  - viii. McKinney Vento program helps students who experience homelessness.
2. Possible other Groups to hear from:
- i. Foster care Student led panel with teachers, etc.
  - ii. Human Resources

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. N/A

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Introduction of EEO Officer Cari Jacoby
- 2. Discussion on inequities observed, reported, and noticed during the School Closure
  - i. How can we improve in these areas for the start of the 2020-2021 School year?
  - ii. SMART Start: Option for parents to give their students paper and tech options. Is it an option for parents with multiple children to be able to help teach their children at the same time as opposed to having every student have a different packet and different technological advice?
  - iii. Our committee didn't meet during the shutdown which made it difficult to understand what information was coming from the District.
  - iv. Decolonization/Equity/Diversity Training should be mandatory and not suggested, and this COVID-19 time should be a time for reflection and training.
  - v. There needs to be a plan in place for Committees to meet in times of school closure that does not keep committees from meeting and tackling the issues at hand.
  - vi. There have been issues of racial inequities as students have experienced discrimination that was shared with Committee members.
  - vii. COVID-19 has brought inequities into light and has created opportunities for the Diversity Committee to act. The committee has been asked for training for employees and students. The committee has been asked for land acknowledgement; however, the committee is not in a capacity to make those changes other than bringing these issues to light to the school board.
  - viii. There should not be discrimination of any kind in our District. Mandatory training is something that should happen for all employees to avoid systemic discrimination
  - ix. It was brought to the Committee's attention on that SPED students were being forced to clean up in the cafeteria and school. FPA Rep. Heather Johnson shared her experience with her SPED students at West Valley High School. The students learn life skills and ask to help the school.
  - x. Rodney Gaskins, DEI contractor to the school district, shared that it is important for conversations to start now because students will be coming back to school with questions and looking for answers. Staff need to be equipped to answer those questions. Mr. Gaskins stated that there should be mandatory training, and it is something he has recommended to Administration.
  - xi. Comments were made of being aware of the genders that people identify with as a few committee members have been miss-gendered and is something that needs addressed.

3. Fairbanks Coalition Builders Community Engagement Sessions
4. Set 2020-2021 Diversity Committee Meeting Schedule

**F. INFORMATION**

1. N/A

**G. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

1. Focus on what the committee has learned and advocate for our students.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

Heather Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bea Felter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.