

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2021

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

Erin Morotti called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm via ZOOM from the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. District Mission Statement

4. Diversity Committee Vision Statement

5. Roll Call / Introductions – Committee has a quorum.

Members present:

Deanna Blackburn

Allison Carr

Brytan 'Bea' Felter

Malcolm McEwen

Erin Morotti

Alyssa Quintyne

Ellen Weiser

Administrative support present:

Rachael Stockton

Kate LaPlaunt

Other:

Lindsay Weaver

Julie Wild-Curry

Members Not in Attendance:

Marissa Anderson

Janelle Chapin - Excused

Taryn Hughes - Excused

Clarice Mingo

Denise Newman

Rose O'Hara-Jolley

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda moved by Allison Carr. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Members reviewed the April 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Alyssa Quintyne made a motion to approve the April 22, 2021 minutes. Allison Carr seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Members reviewed the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Deanna Blackburn made a motion to approve the May 10, 2021 minutes. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

C. REPORTS

1. Departmental/Community Partner Presentations
 - i. After School and Summer Programs – Julie Wild-Curry and Lindsay Weaver

- Introduced Lindsay Weaver and explained her background
- Grants based programs- District funding help support middle school
- What is done?
 - Student Support- SEL focus - Mentoring (Informal and Formal) is a critical piece and essential in being able to connect with students
 - Strength Bases Approach - focus on positive values families bring. Building connections and relationships through community connections and sharing of stories of challenges
 - Equity and Achievement Gap – providing services through the grant that might not have been an option previously. Enriching activities that help them feel connected to school
 - Social – Emotional connections – The key to my car does not open your car door. Strive to give opportunities for students to test drive as many cars as they can. SEL Best Practice Cards > Professional Development.
 - Dropout prevention – personalized needs for the student and family.
 - Recipe for Equity – growth for the student and family. Spoke about ingredients and methods that are used. Better attendance and family engagement.
- ii. Allison asked about creating a curiosity for family cultures: making time for what the student would like to share; teachers/ facilitators welcome students in and have a circle time. Culture based programs- partnered with FNA and JOM Program. Encourage things we celebrate and share within the group.
- iii. Kate shared her thanks for preparing this presentation and touched on how the program creates and sustains inclusion.
- iv. Bea also shared her thanks, and mentioned that maybe the District could use them as a model for the grow your own- mentor mentee program.
- v. Alyssa thanked them for the presentation and asked how well demographics were tracked. Required to track demographics per the grant- serve about 1200 students across all programs. Serving 40% AK Native, 20% African American, 10% Pacific Islander 10% Latino the rest being white. 20% Sped 80% considered living in poverty. Asked about staff and admin demographics as well. Does not reflect student populations but they are working towards that.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Action Items to Support Diversity Committee Priorities – on hold until further information is gathered
 - i. Board had a presentation planned but it was canceled.
2. ANE Board of Education Advisory Representative
 - i. Status update – Bea Felter
 - No update as yet- has not gotten in contact with ANE PAC. Bea will follow up with Brianna Gray and provide an update at the next meeting.
3. Student and Staff with Disabilities Resolution
 - i. Status update on resolution letter - Taryn Hughes, Alyssa Quintyne and Kate LaPlaunt

Have not connected with Kate as of yet, Taryn and Alyssa have been trying to find a good timeline. Alyssa needs some guidance on what a resolution can or cannot do.

Erin has offered her time and assistance to help with this process. –remote but available!
4. Superintendent Search Update > update this next meeting.

- i. Status update on letter of support for implicit bias training for the Board of Education – Taryn Hughes and Alyssa Quintyne
 - Do not have a draft ready as of yet but will send it in once it is drafted
 - Allison Baldock, EEO Officer, has a presentation for DEI.- Can be done in a public meeting, AASB is assisting in superintendent search with Erin Morotti made a DEI training that was sent out to the Board but it was not mandatory.
 - Review training as a committee and include that in the letter of support
- 5. DC member representation / presentations
 - i. NAACP meeting representation – Taryn
 - Taryn was out, Erin will follow up with Wendy on this
 - ii. BFF presentation – Erin will follow up with BFF

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of Diversity Committee membership term limits
 - i. Follow up with Janelle re: 1 year term limit
 - ii. Went over term limits. It was brought to our attention that FEA might have a different term timeline then we do.
 - iii. Spoke about the process of becoming a member. Alyssa wanted to know if that process could be placed in the policy so that it is official and being consistent. Erin will get with Sharon Tuttle to see what that might look like. Motion made by Allison Carr to move to gather information on how to change board policy to explain how to onboard and appoint new committee members. Alyssa Quintyne seconded that motion. Malcom McEwen supported this motion.
2. Reflection and comments on Monday 05/10/21 listening session
 - Alyssa read that was sent to her regarding the Lathrop video incident. – What is offered to the Students and Families that are affected by this? Alyssa reflected on her trauma through schooling and explained that its not about making people comfortable, those students are not comfortable.
 - Malcom enjoyed the listening session and agreed with Alyssa that we need to push the District and the Board to take action on these issues. Malcom also offered help to Bea for the ANE PAC item.
 - Deanna appreciated what Alyssa shared. Deanna graduated in 2004 and some of the things that she experienced, is still happening. Thank you for the having the listening session. We need accountability. How do we measure the effectiveness of things if nothing is addressed?
 - Do we want to hold these sessions regularly, or in emergencies?

Motion to extend to 7:15pm by Malcom McEwen, Deanna Blackburn seconded this motion.

D. INFORMATION

1. [Link to resolutions on District website](#)
2. Dene Atlas Resource
 - i. <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/denemapped/home?authuser=0>
 - Land name map of the entire state and you can see all the different parts of our town and the land that it is on. Really, cool resource to see what things are called and the reasoning behind that.

E. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Malcom shared sentiment about how he enjoyed this year and looks forward to seeing everyone in August

Kate thanked Erin for taking on this role and that smooth transition that was done. Kate appreciates Erin's work and how the committee is following through with those goals that were set early on.

Kate shared that she understands the sentiment that we are not moving fast enough, but cautions on the fact that moving to fast might provide the wrong result.

Alyssa thanked Kate for her voluntarily and the DEI training work that she has done. Alyssa says she hears the fear that Kate explained a lot and replied with we are in a house on fire, there are several of us running in and out to get them out. There are those on a couch, on fire, refusing to see the issue. At what pace should be move forward? We should not move forward at a pace that allow those on the couch to burn.

Erin thanked everyone

F. ADJOURNMENT

Erin Morotti adjourned the meeting at 7:22pm . Motion to adjourn was made by Malcom McEwen and seconded by Bea Felter.