

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2021

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

Kate LaPlaunt 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:

Marissa Anderson

Deanna Blackburn

Allison Carr

Janelle Chapin

Brytan 'Bea' Felter

Taryn Hughes

Malcolm McEwen

Clarice Mingo

Denise Newman

Rose O'Hara-Jolley

Ellen Weiser

Administrative support present:

Heather Christian

Kate LaPlaunt

Other:

Rodney Gaskins

Montean Jackson

Georgia Sandgren

Members Not in Attendance:

Elizabeth Holm

Erin Morotti

Alyssa Quintyne

6. Approval of Agenda

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

7. Approval of the Minutes

Members reviewed the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Taryn Hughes made a motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes. Allison Carr seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

C. REPORTS

1. Departmental/Community Partner Presentations

- i. Black History Month / District & NAACP Contest – Montean Jackson
 - Introduction as current president of NAACP
 - History and partnership with the School District discussed
 - NAACP Black History Month Events discussed

- a. <https://www.facebook.com/NAACPFairbanks>
 - b. Youth Stories, Songs, and Activities from 3 – 5 pm this Saturday, February 20, 2021
 - c. History, Readings, and Experiences from 1 – 3 pm, Saturday, February 27th will be for older students and adults
 - Bea Felter – How can the Diversity Committee further the relationship with NAACP and the school District?
 - a. Communication to keep the dialog open
 - b. Excited to see diversity in action to gain new awareness and understanding
 - c. Share with attendance at NAACP Council meetings
 - Rose O’Hara-Jolley – Loves that the theme this year gives each age group an opportunity to interact with it
 - ii. Bright Futures Fairbanks – Georgia Sandgren
 - Overview of Bright Futures Fairbanks
 - a. Affiliate of Bright Futures USA
 - Goal is to help all children succeed by filling needs within 24 hours
 - Georgia Sandgren can be reached at: 452-2000x11340
 - Opportunities to help discussed
 - Overview of Bright Futures Fairbanks website: <https://www.k12northstar.org/Page/6305>
 - a. Anyone can Ask For Help for students by filling out this form
 - b. Families with literacy or technology issues can contact Georgia directly or go through school staff
2. Training Session (15-20 minutes) – Rodney Gaskins
 - i. Update on district training initiatives
 - Opportunity to teach and not condemn
 - Trainings are generating excitement as the district is moving forward with training and caucus groups
 - ii. Up / Down Tool discussed and practiced - Practicing the art of appreciation
 - Discussed question: Did we leave anyone out?
 - a. People notice when they are not included
 - iii. Marissa Anderson – Look for those who may need you but may not have the courage to ask for help
 - iv. Kate LaPlaunt – Power of asking people to stand up
 - Ask people how they want to be known and identified
 - Think about who is at the table when making the decision and who needs to be there
 - a. What perspectives are you missing

D. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Review Diversity Committee Meeting Group Agreements
 - i. Consider paring down the document
 - ii. Marissa Anderson moved a motion to have Rose O’Hara-Jolley edit the Agreement to make it more of a formal document. Bea Felter seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
 - iii. Committee requested to add the group agreements via link to the agenda once finalized

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Alaska Native Education (ANE) Advisory Representative
 - i. Rose O'Hara-Jolley requested clarification as to who drafted the letter and where the wording came from
 - Alyssa Quintyne and Bea Felter drafted the letter
 - Bea Felter clarified the intent was to take it to next ANE PAC meeting to be sure it is still in line with their request
 - Concern about the quantity of students being in the beginning of the letter and believes that it may derail the intent and purpose of the request
 - ii. Bea Felter – Research discussed
 - iii. Bea Felter moved a motion to have a Diversity Committee member present the letter at the next ANE PAC meeting to request a review along with suggested edits. Denise Newman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
2. Principal Hiring Committee Requests
 - i. Weller – Taryn Hughes
 - ii. Ticasuk Brown – Ellen Weiser
 - iii. Process discussed
 - Round 1 interviews
 - Round 2 interviews
3. Superintendent Search
 - i. Information coming out from school board about timelines and processes
 - ii. Hiring committee process through the school board
4. Bea Felter moved a motion to have a Diversity Committee member represent the committee at NAACP meetings. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

F. INFORMATION

1. Alyssa Quintyne – Black History Month: [The History of the African American Community in Fairbanks](#)

G. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Malcolm McEwen requested the date of the next ANE PAC meeting: 2/26/21 at 5:45 – 7:30 pm
<https://www.k12northstar.org/Page/2887>

Kate LaPlaut – Committee made good progress today – Happy birthday to Erin and daughter.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Malcolm McEwen. Clarice Mingo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.