

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2020

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Erin Morotti called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm via ZOOM from the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

**3. Roll Call / Introductions – Committee has a quorum.**

Members present:

Allison Carr  
Janelle Chapin  
Brytan 'Bea' Felter  
Elizabeth Holm  
Taryn Hughes  
Malcolm McEwen  
Clarice Mingo  
Erin Morotti  
Alyssa Quintyne  
Ellen Weiser

Administrative support present:

Heather Christian  
Kate LaPlaunt

Members Not in Attendance:

Denise Newman  
Rose O'Hara-Jolley  
Marissa Anderson

Other:

Rodney Gaskins

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

Members reviewed the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Allison Carr made a motion to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes. Malcom McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. None

**C. REPORTS**

**1. Department Presentation – Committee suggestions for January Meeting**

**i. Members provided the following requests for information reports:**

- New Alaska Native Education (ANE) Director for the district
- Homeless Liaison / Migrant Education
- Student Support Services / Helen Clark
- Fairbanks Coalition Builders
- Human Resources
- Employment and Educational Opportunity (EEO) Office
- Teaching and Learning [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer / Questioning (LGBTQ) Curriculum]
- High School Genders & Sexualities Alliance Clubs (GSA's)

- System Tech
- Special Education Department (SPED)
  - a. Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Foster Care Liaisons
- BEST Homeschool
- Superintendent hiring committee
- Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) - Office of Children's Services (OCS)
  - a. Coordination with the schools
  - b. Support for families and children in placements throughout COVID-19
- Community partners:
  - a. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
  - b. Native Movement
  - c. Native Action
  - d. First Alaskans
  - e. Stone Soup Group
  - f. Military Liaisons
- ii. Ellen Weiser – Requested information about the inequality of internet access among students and how it is being mitigated along with the effects of eLearning across economic classes
  - Alyssa Quintyne – Noted report when mandates went out and what district was doing to bridge that gap presented by Helen Clark with Student Support Services
  - Rodney Gaskins – Noted that Bright Futures has been helping bridge internet access issues
    - a. District has a survey ready to go out to parents, staff, students, and community members about challenges during distance learning that is in the final review process
    - b. Janelle Chapin - How are surveys going out to populations who do not have access to the survey online
      - i. Rodney Gaskins – Working with Federal Programs to have hard copies printed and social workers to help get the feedback

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

1. Review of Mae Marsh Diversity Committee Training Topics – Postponed until Mae Marsh returns in spring 2021
  - i. No opposition
2. ANE Board of Education Advisory Representative
  - i. History discussed with prior request from ANE
  - ii. Clarification requested in regards to request for motion
    - Is Diversity Committee looking at writing a letter of support for ANE or drafting its own letter requesting an ANE position
  - iii. Committee discussion
  - iv. Ellen Weiser made a motion to write a letter of support of the ANE request to have a representative on the school board. Bea Felter seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
  - v. Committee Decorum and Group Agreements discussed

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

1. Training Topics Requested by Committee Members
  - i. Kate LaPlaunt – Clarified that it would be training to fit in the scheduled meeting times of ~ fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minutes
  - ii. Training topics requested
    - Implicit Bias

- Cultural Competency
  - iii. Rodney Gaskins –
    - Second implicit bias as a starting point
    - Three (3) hour training for district discussed
      - a. First Thoughts (Implicit Bias)
      - b. How to introduce new information
    - Will send Heather Christian the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) document that was referenced
  - iv. Bea Felter – Suggested providing readings or videos to review and come back to committee for discussion during a meeting
  - v. Ellen Weiser – Requested one theme rather than jumping around to many different topics
2. Action Items to Support Diversity Committee Priorities (Continued to next meeting)
- i. Document reviewed via screen share from agenda packet and discussed
  - ii. Clarified item 2.1 – Equity and Access
    - Intentions of Administration and how is it being measured
    - What are the next steps?
  - iii. Clarice Mingo – Brilliant Unity Training provided to district administrators
    - Alyssa Quintyne – Noted complacency and / or fear of staff moving forward
    - Wanted to ensure a safe space for staff after this training
  - iv. Malcolm McEwen – Noted that training will be an ongoing process, and that there needs to be an action component in how it impacts the schools
  - v. Rodney Gaskins – Goals and priorities discussed
    - Noted the need for a baseline and tangible measurements of success of programs
3. Diversity Committee Webpage Review (Continued to next meeting)
- i. Update on webpage progress

## **F. INFORMATION**

- 1. None

## **G. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Member wished committee happy holidays.

Comments on advocacy for safe school re-opening, new school board, superintendent hiring process, professionalism and direction of the committee.

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Alyssa Quintyne. Malcolm McEwen [Bea Felter / Ellen Weiser] seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.