

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2022

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

Allison Baldock 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
Caroline Brown
Janelle Chapin – Late
Donna Fitzpatrick
Taryn Hughes – Late
Erin Janoso
Viletta Knight
Mae Marsh
Malcolm McEwen
Clarice Mingo
Flora Roddy
Bennett Wong

Administrative support present:

Allison Baldock
Danette Bonham
Heather Christian

Other:

Rodney Gaskins

Members Not in Attendance:

Marissa Anderson - Excused
Allison Carr - Excused
Chrya Sanderson - Excused

Introduction of new members: Donna Fitzpatrick and Viletta Knight.

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda moved by Flora Roddy. Erin Janoso seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Members reviewed the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Flora Roddy made a motion to approve the minutes. Caroline Brown seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None
2. Allison Baldock clarified process for adding agenda items

C. REPORTS

1. None

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) Facility Utilization Resolution discussed
 - a. Reviewed the School Efficiency Website
 - b. Noted February 1, 2022 deadline where School Board will be voting on the final recommendations
 - c. Viletta Knight discussed the reasons why each school was selected
 - d. Allison Baldock read the School Efficiency Options being reviewed
 - e. Malcolm McEwen discussed diversity of student and teacher populations and noted the relevance of the School District Strategic Plan
 - f. Caroline Brown requested more information regarding the task force recommendations
 - g. Malcom McEwen discussed BEST Homeschool options
 - i. Flora Roddy added that other alternative learning programs were included in addition to BEST Homeschool
 - h. Viletta Knight noted that repurposing did not come from the task force and discussed issues with Joy being included in all of the options and identified possible transportation issues and unintended consequences for low income and minority students and their families
 - i. Malcolm McEwen proposed alternative option of not supporting any option provided as none address vulnerable population needs
 - j. Viletta Knight proposed writing a letter detailing why the Diversity Committee does not want to support any proposed option
 - k. Janelle Chapin discussed previous redistricting of Hunter and University Park and noted devastating impact on students
 - l. Taryn Hughes requested more feasibility studies on the proposed options
 - m. Caroline Brown noted budget timeline and suggested the School Board hold additional work sessions to discuss these concerns
 - n. Flora Roddy discussed diversity of support staff in addition to teachers and students
 - o. Motion moved by Viletta Knight to draft a letter that addresses these points and that the Diversity Committee does not support any proposed option. Flora Roddy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
 - p. Mae Marsh discussed decisions made solely on dollars versus demographics
 - q. Bennett Wong discussed equity language and diversity language
 - r. Janelle Chapin discussed the impact of privilege
 - s. Motion moved by Flora Roddy to extend the meeting. Taryn Hughes seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
 - t. Motion moved by Taryn Hughes to draft the letter over the weekend to be approved by the committee on Monday. [Heather Christian noted that a meeting with a quorum would be required to approve the final letter draft if this motion passed.] Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and the motion failed.**
 - i. Yes vote from: Allison Baldock (non-voting member)
 - ii. No votes from: Clarice Mingo, Bennett Wong, Flora Roddy, Malcolm McEwen, Caroline Brown, Deanna Blackburn, Janelle Chapin, Donna Fitzpatrick, Mae Marsh, Erin Janoso, Viletta Knight
 - iii. Abstain: Taryn Hughes
 - u. Motion moved by Flora Roddy to extend meeting until the letter is finalized and the agenda items have been completed. [Heather Christian advised that the administrator could not stay past 8:00 pm and that an administrator is required to be present for the meeting.]**

- v. **Amended motion moved by Janelle Chapin to extend the meeting to 8:00 pm. Flora Roddy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- w. **Motion moved by Viletta Knight to approve the School Efficiency / Facility Utilization document as written. Janelle Chapin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by all committee members present. [Committee still had a quorum.]**
 - i. Yes votes from: Clarice Mingo, Bennett Wong, Flora Roddy, Malcolm McEwen, Caroline Brown, Deanna Blackburn, Janelle Chapin, Donna Fitzpatrick, Erin Janoso, Viletta Knight, Allison Baldock (non-voting member)
 - ii. Not present: Taryn Hughes, Mae Marsh
- x. **Motion moved by Viletta Knight to send the document through Chrya Sanderson, Committee Chair, to the School Board. Flora Roddy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

A. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. None

B. INFORMATION

- 1. [Link to resolutions on District website](#)
- 2. Dene Atlas Resource
 - i. <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/denemapped/home?authuser=0>

C. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1. Caroline Brown – Thanks to Janelle Chapin and requested clarification on agenda process
- 2. Bennett Wong – Discussed diversity in the district and proposed name change for the committee
- 3. Malcolm McEwen – Thanks to Janelle Chapin and noted support for Bennett Wong and Caroline Brown
- 4. Janelle Chapin – Thanks to committee and discussed Diversity Committee involvement
- 5. Flora Roddy – Invited Diversity Committee members to the Fairbanks Coalition building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshop via Zoom 1/28/22 from 9 am to noon and thanked Allison Baldock for assisting with the meeting
- 6. Deanna Blackburn – Echoed Janelle Chapin’s comments
- 7. Rodney Gaskins – Discussed his perspective on direction of the Diversity Committee

D. ADJOURNMENT

Allison Baldock adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Viletta Knight and seconded by Flora Roddy. Motion carried unanimously.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2022

TO: MEMBERS OF THE FNSB SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: BOARD DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SCHOOL EFFICIENCY OPTIONS / FACILITY UTILIZATION

We, the Diversity Committee, do not support any of the recommendations presented as the school efficiency options for the following reasons:

- The decisions appear to have been made solely on dollars.
- The decisions do not include a demographic analysis of the student body, teachers, and support staff.
- These decisions do not articulate the impact to the student body, teachers, and support staff.
- No one from the Diversity Committee was on the task force.
- The decisions further heighten the injustices that these populations have faced during the last two years of the pandemic.
- The closure of Joy further exacerbates existing barriers to student services and student achievement which is a component of each of the three (3) proposals. There may be consequences for disadvantaged populations who may not have other means to transport their students.
- These decisions do not articulate an adequate and consistent transportation plan for all impacted students.
- These options do not reflect the district's diversity initiatives that currently exist in the strategic plan.
- The decisions do not take into account the economically disadvantaged populations.
- Emphasis on some of these options is not servicing minority students or families and does not bring them any benefits through the homeschool options.
- Diversity of the teaching population needs to be maintained with the closing of the school so that it more closely matches the student population at each school.
- These decisions do not take equity and diversity into account.

We strongly recommend that members of the Diversity Committee have significant and meaningful involvement in future decisions that impact students and families who are marginalized in our communities.

Sincerely submitted by the FNSBSD Board Diversity Committee.