

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2021

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Erin Morotti called the meeting to order at 5:37 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

Taryn Hughes

Erin Janoso

Malcolm McEwen

Clarice Mingo

Erin Morotti

Rose O’Hara-Jolley

Alyssa Quintyne

Flora Roddy

Ellen Weiser

Bennett Wong

Administrative support present:

Heather Christian

Kate LaPlaunt

Other:

Chane Beam

Mae Marsh

Members Not in Attendance:

Marissa Anderson

Allison Carr

**6. Approval of Agenda**

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

**7. Approval of the Minutes**

Members reviewed the September 23, 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

**C. REPORTS**

1. Departmental/Community Partner Presentation: Teaching and Learning – Chane Beam
  - i. Diversity Committee Mission and Goals reviewed by Erin Morotti
  - ii. Curriculum process detailed with slide presentation

- Curriculum vs materials terminology discussed
- Diversity in the process discussed
- iii. Process of adding courses discussed
- iv. Alyssa Quintyne: Clarification of definitions and language utilized
  - Encouraged inclusive language - Identity first language discussed
- v. Caroline Brown: Requested clarification of where this committee fits in the process and noted current focus on students with disabilities
  - Erin Morotti added involvement in the principal hiring committee and suggested initiating and agreement between the Diversity Committee and the Curriculum Committee
- vi. Janelle Chapin: Requested clarification on review of courses for effectiveness, correct terminology and aligned with changing times
  - Chane Beam confirmed that it is reviewed on the six (6) year schedule
- vii. Rose O'Hara-Jolley: Thanked Flora Roddy for her leadership and guidance
- viii. Malcolm McEwen: Requested clarification on tools used to check for representation in materials and if reviewers receive any Diversity, Equity, Inclusion training
  - Chane Beam discussed the review forms and noted that publishers are paying more attention to this than they have historically
  - Confirmed that reviewers are provided with training and will confirm that implicit / unconscious bias training is included
  - Diversity in staff discussed
- ix. Ellen Weiser: Noted lack of coordination between School Board Committees and suggested that someone from the Diversity Committee should have a seat on the Curriculum Committee
  - Erin Morotti reviewed process to move this forward should the committee wish to do so
- x. Flora Roddy: Noted that the public always has the option to comment and review the curriculum so that all voices can be heard
  - **Teaching & Learning Curriculum Materials review:**
    - a. <https://www.k12northstar.org/Page/8852>
- xi. Kate LaPlaunt: Recognized importance to strengthen diversity in access to AP classes and emphasized that it is more than just diversity in course options but in access as well

## D. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Superintendent Search Update

- i. Letter to the School Board – Alyssa Quintyne
- ii. Review of the current situation and actions that the board can take in the search for a new superintendent
- iii. Document reviewed
  - Alyssa Quintyne – Latino to Latine
  - Janelle Chapin – Native to Indigenous
    - a. Indigenous vs Alaska Native / American Indian discussed
    - b. Change Native to Indigenous
  - Malcolm McEwen – Need for a highly qualified superintendent
  - Erin Morotti – Update on process discussed
- iv. **Motion made by Rose O'Hara-Jolley to approve draft Superintendent Search Letter with corrections. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- v. **Motion made by Flora Roddy to have signature block for committee members added to the Superintendent Search Letter. Erin Janoso seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

2. DC member representation / presentations
  - i. BFF presentation request
    - Update from BFF committee meeting by Erin Morotti
  - ii. NAACP update – Rose O’Hara-Jolley
    - Wendy Dominique extended invitation for Diversity Committee representation
    - Deanna Blackburn volunteered to attend the meetings and will notify Heather Christian or Erin Morotti when she needs to be added to the agenda with updates

## B. NEW BUSINESS

1. DC membership Recognition
  - i. Parting gifts for members leaving the committee presented along with thanks for participation and support of the Diversity Committee
  - ii. Parting comments from leaving members
2. Non-Binary Options for District Forms
  - i. **Motion made by Ellen Weiser to extend the meeting for fifteen (15) minutes. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion.**
  - ii. Forms non-inclusive of non-binary options discussed
  - iii. Erin Janoso noted that updating the forms can create a more inclusive learning and work environment
  - iv. **Motion made by Erin Janoso to explore providing inclusive forms. Motion seconded by Flora Roddy.**
    - Rose O’Hara-Jolley: Form based on what was there before but not on what information may actually be needed
    - Janelle Chapin: Noted inclusion issue broader than non-binary options, such as guardian instead of parent
    - Alyssa Quintyne: Noted importance of allowing people to identify themselves correctly on forms and documents
    - Erin Janoso: Noted grant issue and required fields for data reporting may limit some options
    - Kate LaPlaunt: Discussed scope and research required to implement large system transformations along with process to affect these changes
  - v. **Motion made by Ellen Weiser to appoint Janelle Chapin and Erin Janoso to begin the process of exploration regarding diversity in forms in the School District. Motion seconded by Flora Roddy, and it carried unanimously.**

## C. INFORMATION

1. [Link to resolutions on District website](#)
  - i. Update on current School Board resolutions provided by Erin Morotti
  - ii. Noted 100% positive public testimony provided to the School Board
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.

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

1. **Motion made by Flora Roddy to extend the meeting until each member who wishes to comment has had a chance to comment. Motion seconded by Malcolm McEwen.**
2. Ellen Weiser: Thank you and wished committee well
3. Rose O'Hara-Jolley: Thank you to everyone past, present, and future and those providing public testimony. Excited to see what the committee will do.
4. Erin Janoso: Requested clarification of Board Restructure process and effect on the Board Committees
  - i. Process detailed by Erin Morotti
5. Flora Roddy: [Fairbanks Coalition Builders](#) update
  - i. Meet and greet for potential new members
  - ii. Next event is November 12<sup>th</sup> for DEI workshop at Salcha Elementary
    - 9 am – noon
    - Committee members welcome to participate as a guests
  - iii. [BFF Training Sessions on National School Safety conference](#)
    - Happy to participate if leave granted
  - iv. [Alaska's college fair](#)
    - Invite students from FNSBSD schools and outlying areas where representatives come from around the country
    - Second year where we will be doing an Alaska College Fair where Anchorage will be hosting a presentation
    - Check out website under Teaching and Learning – [Parent and Student – Events](#)

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

Erin Morotti adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm . Motion to adjourn was made by Flora Roddy and seconded by Malcolm McEwen. Motion carried unanimously.