

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2021

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Erin Morotti called the meeting to order at 5:34 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

Allison Carr

Janelle Chapin

Brytan 'Bea' Felter

Taryn Hughes

Erin Janoso

Malcolm McEwen

Erin Morotti

Rose O'Hara-Jolley

Alyssa Quintyne

Ellen Weiser

Bennett Wong

Administrative support present:

Heather Christian

Kate LaPlaunt

Other:

Rodney Gaskins

Flora Roddy

Maria Berger

Members Not in Attendance:

Clarice Mingo

Marissa Anderson

**6. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to adopt agenda moved by Alyssa Quintyne. Ellen Weiser seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**7. Approval of the Minutes**

Members reviewed the May 20, 2021 minutes and the August 26, 2021 meeting notes. Alyssa Quintyne made a motion to approve the minutes. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. None

**C. REPORTS**

1. Training Session – Rodney Gaskins

- i. Update provided on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training completed with Boreal Sun Charter School
- ii. Upcoming DEI training detailed

- ESSA in-Service training is on October 1, 2021 (ESSA Staff Members Only)
  - Fairbanks Coalition Builders Open House on October 13, 2021 from 5 -7 pm
- iii. Working with Human Resources regarding under-represented populations
  - iv. New grant awarded for restorative justice discipline
    - Diversity Committee members can reach out if interested in forming a caucus group regarding DEI
    - Alyssa Quintyne – Grant question/concern discussed
  - v. Bennett Wong noted concerns for marginalized groups and DEI training where those groups are becoming re-traumatized and requested information on strategies to sustain this training and advance it as well to keep an equitable space that focuses on safety of marginalized groups
    - Rodney Gaskins discussed concerns and goals of training

## B. OLD BUSINESS

1. ANE Board of Education Advisory Representative
  - i. Status update – Bea Felter
    - ANE Board of Education Advisory Representative request needs to be presented to Superintendent by ANE Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) along with the letter of support from the Diversity Committee
  - ii. **Bea Felter made a motion to approve the Diversity Committee letter with added date and signature block and submit it through Brianna Gray, Alaska Native Education Director. Malcolm McEwen seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
2. Student and Staff with Disabilities Resolution
  - i. Status update on resolution letter - Taryn Hughes, Alyssa Quintyne and Kate LaPlaut
    - Completed tasks reviewed and suggestions for moving the resolution forward discussed
  - ii. **Motion made by Ellen Weiser to have Caroline Brown and Taryn Hughes take on the committee work for the Student and Staff with Disabilities Resolution. Bennett Wong seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
3. Superintendent Search Update
  - i. Status update on letter of support for implicit bias training for the Board of Education – Taryn Hughes and Alyssa Quintyne
    - Continued relevancy of the letter of support discussed
    - History of letter reviewed with new committee members
    - Superintendent hiring process discussed
    - Other options to the letter of support discussed
      - Influence and time frame and noted the power in making a statement regardless of the result
    - Effect of elections and School Board turnover discussed
    - **Motion made by Caroline Brown to extend meeting to 7:30 pm. Janelle Chapin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
    - **Motion made by Caroline Brown to move forward with letter or other correspond to the School Board that outlines approaches that the Diversity Committee would like to see as it moves forward such as implicit bias training and suggested interview questions. Bennett Wong Seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
4. DC member representation / presentations
  - i. NAACP meeting representation – Taryn Hughes / Maria Berger
    - Erin Morotti advised that Wendy Dominique asked Maria Berger to

provide a brief statement

- Education committee for the NAACP meets every other Wednesday and will meet next Wednesday
  - Their committee aligns with what the Diversity Committee is doing and would like more of a connection with the district and the School Board
  - Requested to have a Diversity Committee representative speak with their group and requested they connect with Wendy Dominique for further information
  - **Motion made by Allison Carr to have Rose O'Hara-Jolley present at the next available NAACP Education Committee meeting. Deanna Blackburn seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
- ii. BFF presentation – No updated provided

### C. NEW BUSINESS

1. DC membership Update/Term Limits
  - i. Application process discussed
  - ii. Memberships groups discussed
  - iii. Member duties discussed along with minimum attendance requirements

### D. 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.

### E. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Allison Carr – Noted Every Child A Reader Opportunity: <https://everychildareader.net/>
- Submit proposals to host the National Ambassador or Young People's Literature in Spring 2022 for grades 5 - 12: <https://everychildareader.net/ambassador/events/>

Ellen Weiser – Shared journey with the Diversity Committee

Erin Morotti thanked everyone for attending the meeting

### F. ADJOURNMENT

Erin Morotti adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm . Motion to adjourn was made by Bea Felter and seconded by Bennett Wong. Motion carried unanimously.