

**Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education
Diversity Committee Meeting In-Person and By Video Conference**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Hosted from the Board Room and via ZOOM
School District Administrative Center
520 Fifth Avenue

For Devices: Public Zoom Webinar Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81470955434>

Or by phone, please dial:

**888 788 0099 (Toll Free)
877 853 5247 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 814 7095 5434**

AGENDA

*For callers - *6 mutes and unmutes; *9 raises a caller's hand.*

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement:
The Diversity Committee would like to take this moment to respectfully acknowledge we are residing on the traditional land of the Dena people.
3. District Mission Statement:
Our mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.
4. Diversity Committee Vision Statement:
Students, parents/guardians, staff, and community stakeholders at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District envision learning without boundaries, recognizing, respecting and celebrating differences. Whether our differences are skin color, language, culture, ethnicity, religion, family structure, skill level, challenges or development, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or socio-economic status or condition, we will ensure all students have the opportunity to realize their lifelong learning potential.
5. Roll Call / Introductions
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Approval of April 5, 2023 Minutes

B. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

C. REPORTS

1. Bright Futures Fairbanks (BFF) – Diana Dillard
2. FNSBSD The Center – Christine Schut

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Disability Resolution – Caroline Brown
2. District Form Review – Erin Janoso
3. Resolution Against Bullying – Margaret Matheson / Tifani Hollcraft

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Racial Diversity Among School Staff / Teachers – Viletta Knight

F. INFORMATION

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

G. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

H. ADJOURNMENT

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2023

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order

Margaret Matheson called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm via ZOOM from the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue due to technical issues with the ZOOM platform.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. District Mission Statement

4. Diversity Committee Vision Statement

5. Roll Call / Introductions – Committee has a quorum.

Members present:

Margaret Matheson
Sandra Clark
Donna Fitzpatrick
Tifani Hollcraft
Erin Janoso
Mae Marsh
Flora Roddy
April Scott

Administrative support present:

Heather Christian

Other:

Christine Schut - Canceled

Members Not in Attendance:

Caroline Brown – Excused
Sarah Dimmick
Viletta Knight – Excused

6. Approval of Agenda

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

7. Approval of the Minutes

Members reviewed the March 1, 2023 minutes. Flora Roddy made a motion to approve the minutes. Mae Marsh seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

C. REPORTS

1. FNSBSD – The Center – Christine Schut (Canceled)

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. None

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution Against Bullying – Margaret Matheson
 - i. Requested help from the team to write the resolution
 - ii. Tifani Hollcraft – Read notes on resolution into record
 - iii. Committee discussion
 - iv. Break to reset zoom link
 - v. Tifani Hollcraft left meeting – Committee maintains a quorum
 - vi. April Scott – Read School Board Policy [1046.7](#) and [1048.2](#) into record
 - vii. Erin Janoso – Will research other resolutions of this nature and will forward to Heather Christian to disseminate to the committee

B. INFORMATION

1. [Link to resolutions on District website](#)
2. Dene Atlas – Google Sites
 - i. A collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to collecting, preserving, and displaying traditional Alaska Dene place names.
 - ii. <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/denemapped/home>

C. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Introductions and closing comments
2. Erin Janoso – District forms review noted and requested it be added to the next agenda
3. Flora Roddy – Admin Secretary for Teaching and Learning; history with DC discussed; history with district discussed; National Coalition Builders involvement; supports resolution
4. Mae Marsh – Community member at large; retired civil rights practitioner
5. April Scott – Assistant Principal at BEHS; interested to hear what community has to say to better support everyone
6. Donna Fitzpatrick – Retired five (5) years ago; SPED teacher in a residential facility in town; large chunk of kids who have experienced trauma and requested resolution to not just focus on the one who is a bully but also provide additional supports for kids who have been bullied
7. Sandy Clark – Retired music teacher; current mentor to music teachers in the district; importance of this committee and noted that diversity is the result of a process and not just a numbers issue. It is a process of thoughtful actions where we can hope to achieve change in the school district for the better that results in true diversity.
8. Maggie Matheson – Assigned to be on the Diversity Committee; thank you for informative discussion

D. ADJOURNMENT

Margaret Matheson adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Flora Roddy and seconded by Mae Marsh. Motion carried unanimously.



Heather Christian <f361331@k12northstar.org>

Fwd: Follow-up on School Climate Survey testimony re: African American Students

Viletta Knight <vknightpta@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 12:09 PM

To: Heather Christian <heather.christian@k12northstar.org>

Here is the email I sent to the school board. If it is allowed, please include it in the packet. Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Viletta Knight** <vknightpta@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 10:05 AM

Subject: Follow-up on School Climate Survey testimony re: African American Students

To: <schoolboard@k12northstar.org>

Good morning Board Members,

Here are the recommendations I made at last night's school board meeting.

- 1) Collaborate with Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB communities to engage African American teachers who are dependents of current service members stationed at those installations. Even though they likely will only be stationed there for three years, this is one avenue of employing local teachers of color who are already certified. And consider helping them with the process so that they don't have to spend a lot of money to begin teaching.
- 2) Work with local groups like the Fairbanks NAACP Education Committee to connect with HBCU graduates who might be willing to relocate to Fairbanks "for the adventure" and possibly stay long-term.
- 3) Invite local African American community members to be guest speakers in classrooms or at professional development training. Perhaps even a database of some sort with names of those people who are willing to participate. We have African American business owners, former City Council members, former legislators, veterans, ministers, coaches, psychiatrists, family counselors, nurses, doctors, etc. who are willing to share their expertise. (I would be willing to help add names to that list as well as contact information.)

Thanks for asking for this information. It REALLY does make a difference when African American students see folks who look like them in places of authority both in school (teachers) and out in the community.

Viletta Knight
vknightpta@gmail.com
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