

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2023

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Margaret Matheson called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm from the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Quorum was not established until 5:38 pm.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

**3. District Mission Statement**

**4. Diversity Committee Vision Statement**

**5. Roll Call / Introductions – Committee has a quorum @ 5:38pm.**

Members present:

Margaret Matheson  
Sandra Clark  
Donna Fitzpatrick  
Viletta Knight  
Mae Marsh  
Flora Roddy

Administrative support present:

Erin Poland

Other:

Diana Dillard  
Christine Schut  
Erin Janoso

Members Not in Attendance:

April Scott - Excused  
Caroline Brown- Excused  
Tifani Hollcraft- Expected  
Sarah Dimmick- Expected

**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 April 5, 2023 minutes. Flora Roddy made a motion to approve the minutes. Donna Fitzpatrick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**1. None**

### **C. REPORTS**

1. Bright Futures Fairbanks (BFF) – Diana Dillard informational item at 5:37 pm - no quorum at this time.
  - What needs are for our students. Fundraising aspect to fund request.
  - Cap and Gown needs for seniors
  - Food program over the summer
  - Financial support thru bright futures
  - a few openings on the board
  - Monthly Meetings - next is May 17th at 2:30 pm
2. FNSBSD – The Center – Christine Schut [9:15]
  - MV and Foster Care - OCS custody or have housing insecurity (homeless youth and families).
  - Most needs are met thru the Center
  - Classroom and family engagement room along with offices
  - Goal: Family engagement - bring families together.
  - On May 2nd, they held a skateboard building class with seven (7) students consisting of: home-school, foster care, tribal foster and McKinney Vento. REALLY happy kids! They built it themselves - sense of pride.
  - Garden club which produces about 6-8 quarts of fresh greens and herbs per week. Supplementing food for families. Kids come in and manage these herbs together. Learning from one another and growing to care for each other.

### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Disability Resolution – Caroline Brown: family emergency- not present
2. District Form Review – Erin Janoso [19:07]
  - Call attention to district forms and their use of asking users to provide gender and race for example.
  - Ms. Janoso shared her sadness that the last Diversity Meeting was her last as a committee member. She expressed hope that the committee would continue this important work on updating district forms.
  - UAF started by changing one specific form and removed the often asked race and gender questions - much more thoughtful forms.
  - Discussion ensued with committee members.
3. Resolution Against Bullying – Margaret Matheson / Tifani Hollcraft [39:55]  
Miss Hollcraft was not present for the meeting. Mrs. Matheson said Miss Hollcraft is graduating in two (2) weeks. The board will be reviewing the resolution over the summer.

### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Racial Diversity Among School Staff / Teachers – Viletta Knight [41:08]
  - On Nov 1, 2022 testified to the board and emailed the board (attached to agenda) Question is: Is there any forward motion on trying to hire more African American teachers in the district? Mrs. Matheson shared that Ms. McDaniel-Ilggenfritz wasn't present and therefore couldn't speak to her question. She did state that the matter is very important to President Sanderson. Mrs. Matheson said she would reach out to Ms. McDaniel-Ilggenfritz.
  - Ms. Knight said she knows they cannot get hired if not applying and offered alternative solutions to build representation.
  - If not teachers, then why aren't other positions being filled by African American applicants? Outreach needs to be better.
  - Collaborate with Ft. Wainwright.
  - Discussion ensured with the committee members.

## **F. 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>

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

1. Flora Roddy: Information on Relay for Life- on the committee. Theme - Every Step Brings Hope. Sat. June 3 from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm - District Do-Gooders. (Flora's team)
2. Mae Marsh: Become a member of FAIR (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism). More information at: [fairforall.org](http://fairforall.org)
3. Viletta Knight: Teacher appreciation week - shout out to all the teachers. NAACP sponsoring Juneteenth on June 17th.
4. Erin Janoso: Sorry it's my last meeting...appreciated her time in the group. Happy to see the community reports. Important way to keep the pulse on different people's feelings.
5. Maggie Matheson: Shout out to Heather Christian - Big Shout Out!!! Reports were all from Heather.
6. Donna Fitzpatrick: Accessing military spouses for the positions. Barrier is child care on post. Can we, the school district, offer assistance when hiring military spouses?
7. Sandy Clark: Enjoyed the reports on this agenda. How many people use the Center services? Flora: 644 students involved in summer programs this year with Bright Future Families.
8. Maggie Matheson: District is gearing up for graduation. President Sanderson has about 50 students who have minimal support and are indeed graduating. The district has seen success with our graduation rates. CEC program has quite a few graduates this year. If you can make it to the graduation, it's on May 11th at 7 pm.

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Margaret Matheson adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Flora Roddy and seconded by Viletta Knight. Motion carried unanimously.