

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Diversity Committee

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022

**A. PRELIMINARIES**

**1. Call to Order**

Chrya Sanderson 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:

Chrya Sanderson  
Deanna Blackburn  
Caroline Brown  
Janelle Chapin  
Sandra Clark  
Donna Fitzpatrick  
Erin Janoso  
Viletta Knight  
Mae Marsh  
Malcolm McEwen  
Flora Roddy  
Bennett Wong

Administrative support present:

Allison Baldock  
Danette Bonham  
Heather Christian

Other:

Rodney Gaskins

Members Not in Attendance:

Marissa Anderson  
Allison Carr – Excused  
Clarice Mingo

**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 January 20, 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. Bennett Wong – Committee decorum**

## C. REPORTS

1. None

## D. OLD BUSINESS

1. District Form Review – Erin Janoso
  - a. Update and history of work completed provided
  - b. Requested more information about school district policies and procedures in regards to forms
  - c. Process for recommendation options discussed
    - i. Chrya Sanderson – Noted that committee makes the recommendation and the board makes the determination if it is going to move forward and then the board tasks the district with implementing
  - d. Mae Marsh – Discussed data aspects of forms and recommended caution when considering changes
  - e. Malcolm McEwen
    - i. **The Diversity Committee recommends to the School Board and district administration to restructure how data collected from students, employees and families be reformatted to allow for more accurate and broader options for self-identification to include, but not be limited to, the addition of more diverse ethnic identities, gender identities and chosen names.**
    - ii. Clarified by Malcolm McEwen as a motion to the board. Motion seconded by Flora Roddy
    - iii. Discussion of motion by committee
  - f. Viletta Knight moved a call for question that was second by Flora Roddy
    - i. Yes – Chrya Sanderson, Bennett Wong, Flora Roddy, Malcolm McEwen, Caroline Brown, Deanna Blackburn, Donna Fitzpatrick, Erin Janoso, Viletta Knight, Allison Baldock
    - ii. No – Mae Marsh
    - iii. Abstain – Janelle Chapin
    - iv. Left the meeting – Sandra Clark – Committee still has quorum
    - v. Call for question carries
  - g. **Motion moved by Malcom McEwen that the Diversity Committee recommends to the School Board and district administration to restructure how data collected from students, employees and families be reformatted to allow for more accurate and broader options for self-identification to include, but not be limited to, the addition of more diverse ethnic identities, gender identities and chosen names. Flora Roddy seconded the motion.**
    - i. Yes – Chrya Sanderson, Bennett Wong, Flora Roddy, Malcolm McEwen, Caroline Brown, Deanna Blackburn, Donna Fitzpatrick, Erin Janoso, Viletta Knight
    - ii. No - Mae marsh
    - iii. Abstain – Janelle Chapin, Allison Baldock
    - iv. Motion carries.

## A. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Committee Policy and Procedure Overview – Chrya Sanderson
  - i. Update on policy review currently being conducted by the School Board
  - ii. Chrya Sanderson will provide updates from that process as needed
2. Diversity Committee Calendar – Chrya Sanderson
  - i. Calendar updates presented to the committee
  - ii. Committee discussion on calendaring options

## 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. Viletta Knight – February is black history month and encourages everyone to go to the library and check out a book that represents African American characters and / or explore the berry room display. Noted that the birthday of Fredrick Douglas is in February.
2. Flora Roddy – Fairbanks Coalition Builders (FCB) is working with schools to get the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) message across. If you are interested, you can contact FCB to become a member to be on the team and help with presentations. Bright Futures Fairbanks (BFF) helps students in need by collaborating together to meet those needs in twenty-four (24) hours. Contact Flora Roddy for more information – Remember kindness day!
3. Bennett Wong – Noted DEI concerns. Requested agenda item to change the name of the Diversity Committee.
4. Malcolm McEwen – Noted agenda concerns. Requested update on the Tribal Consultation Member, name change for the Diversity Committee, Boreal Sun training, and principal hiring committees.
5. Caroline Brown – Noted support for committee members and highlighted the many topics that the Diversity Committee is addressing and suggested a focus on goals may be beneficial.
6. Donna Fitzpatrick – No comment
7. Mae Marsh – Noted advisory capacity of the Diversity Committee and the scope of responsibilities to support the district's vision.
8. Erin Janoso – Noted support for committee members and commented on the process to gather and submit information to the board.
9. Allison Baldock – The District and NAACP are sponsoring the Black History Month Contest: Black Health and Wellness. Information is located on the [EEO website](#). Due date extended to February 24, 2022. Highlighted the [Pathways to Becoming a Teacher](#) event coordinated by the recruiting team in conjunction with FNA
10. Chrya Sanderson – No comments

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Chrya Sanderson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Viletta Knight and seconded by Flora Roddy. Motion carried unanimously.