

Quality Assurance Committee
Draft Minutes
March 5, 2007

Attendance: Chairwoman Shirley Thompson, Commissioner White. Commissioner Elliott excused. Board Staff Linda Dunsmoor, District Chiefs Cheryl Holloway, Marie Cianca, Michele Hancock.

Chairwoman Thompson convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda items: (no additions)

1) Gay Straight Alliance: Chairwoman Thompson said she understood this would be addressed as part of the Diversity Initiative/Culture Change report, item 3.

2) Living Contract: Dr. Cianca said Dr. Rivera is preparing a direct response to the Committee's questions; she did not have a date for when the response would be provided.

ACTION ITEM: Linda Dunsmoor to follow-up with Dr. Rivera 3/6 regarding date of response and whether any clarification is needed. (completed)

3) Diversity Initiative/Culture Change: Michele Hancock walked commissioners through the Culture Change Initiative report she had submitted Friday and they reviewed.

Question/Comment:	Response/ Action Item:
How many African American first-year teachers were retained?	Marie Costanza to provide information to L. Dunsmoor for March 9 BOE packet (3/5 was a snow day).
What is the rejection/hiring ratio for teachers of color? Commissioners hear discussion in the community of teachers of color being rejected.	Michele Hancock will take this question to HR so the Department is aware that QA views this data as important; if it is not being kept it should be going forward.
Department of Diversity and Leadership Development is growing; does it receive corollary resources?	Yes.
How is Professional Development participation, monitoring and individual outcomes tracked?	Perception data and feedback.
A method for monitoring and tracking should be developed.	
Are Major Achievement Programs (MAP) in five elementary schools siphoning off high-achieving students and affecting the scores of the other buildings? Does MAP work because of the program or	Very hot issue with parents. Some believe MAP should be in every school. A report on this topic was issued about 5 years ago. (Marie Cianca will do her best to locate the report and provide to QA.) In

DRAFT NOT APPROVED BY CHAIR

<p>because of the students involved? Shouldn't enrichment be part of every school program? The MAP discussion should be revisited as a future agenda item.</p> <p>Are staff members taking professional development courses that are "more palatable" than diversity-based courses?</p> <p>How much to the ROOTS contracts total?</p> <p>What evaluation has been done on ROOTS? Why expand the program with no data it is successful?</p> <p>Urban Teacher Leadership Academy; is more information available?</p> <p>What was the racial make-up participation?</p> <p>What is an acceptable ratio of students of color to teachers of color? Out of balance now.</p> <p>Additional questions</p>	<p>other districts, the scores of MAP students are counted in the student's "home school" but not RCSD.</p> <p>Regarding students, while MAP students could be role models for other students in their home schools, "gifted" students also have special needs.</p> <p>Possibly, or it could be the amount of time the course has been advertised or simply the time of year: Many teachers have completed PD hours for 2006-07.</p> <p>Approximately \$200,000.</p> <p>Anecdotal/qualitative. Program just expanded this year. Principals sometimes cite suspension data. Qualitative data is relevant, especially in light of how long it takes to have enough quantitative data. A balance is needed.</p> <p>Michele Hancock distilled the information to a snapshot; she can provide the full report but it is a large document.</p> <p>Four African Americans, three Hispanics, remainder Caucasian.</p> <p>Need to grow our own teachers through Para-professional ranks and teacher program at East High School.</p> <p>Commissioners to provide in writing to Linda Dunsmoor by 3/9.</p>
--	--

4) African and African American Studies Department: Michele Hancock and Linda Dunsmoor provided Commissioners with program status and research information prior to the meeting.

Question/Comment:	Response/Action Item:
<p>Emphasis on real curriculum changes or instructional delivery (i.e. right/left brain approach)?</p>	<p>Balance of both is program is to be successful.</p>
<p>Does the Afro-Centric approach meet the needs of all students, including Hispanic?</p>	<p>Yes, because it is an inclusionary model for all.</p>
<p>Impact of program on teachers already burdened with state dictating curriculum through Standards.</p>	<p>Program embraces standards, will not be a conflict, represents a different way of teaching.</p>

DRAFT NOT APPROVED BY CHAIR

Next steps? Action plan and timeline?	Create stakeholder committee; hire director based on track record with children -- not politics. Michele Hancock will provide preliminary timeline for April 16 QA meeting presentation, including what committee can work on before director is hired.
---------------------------------------	--

4) Gay Straight Alliance: Rebecca Boyle said a survey originally scheduled for February 2007 will be distributed to students and staff in early spring; the original survey had to be edited for length. She is not sure how long it will take the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to tabulate the results. **She will provide a timeline for the April 16 QA meeting for the GSA/GLSEN work.**

5) QA calendar. Reading topics for May and June may be added to agenda. MAP identified as future potential agenda item.

ACTION ITEM: District/Board staff to flesh out other agenda items for the remainder of 2007 calendar year and report for April 16.

6) Follow-up item discussion:

ELA Audit: Submitted material was informative and a piece of what Commissioners sought but not all of it. What is the plan for getting sixth-graders on grade level? Action items need to be specific.

DRA scores: Great information provided. Data will be even more instructive in future. A wealth of data available;

Action item: Administrators to identify (ELA & DRA?) information that is available and provide for April 16 QA meeting.

Committee needs to decide what is most relevant to its work and plan agendas accordingly.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner White, second by Chairwoman Thompson. Adopted at 8:30 p.m.