Black Historical and Cultural Studies Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2026

The meeting began at 7:04.

The following committee members were present for the meeting:

Alysia Bellamy
Biaze Houston
Ashley Lawrence-Sanders
Jameka Lewis
Alexander Pittman
Nick Psarakis
Jahi Simbai
Stephanie Hartman (CDE)
Shelly Ramos (CDE)

The following committee members were absent:

Fernando Branch
Floyd Cobb
Regina English
Tony Exum
Khadija Haynes
Shirley Martinez
Jalessa McIntosh
Jamal Skinner

Dr. Alexander Pittman reminded the group of the committee's charge and reminded committee members that they could still add resources to the resource bank.

Dr. Pittman explained that since there was no quorum at the last meeting, Dr. Stephanie Hartman sent out a request for committee members to vote on whether to add new grade level expectations for grades 6-12. There was no quorum in the online vote. Committee members discussed that since there was a quorum at this meeting, they would cast a vote on the matter of adding new grade level expectations. Nick Psarakis and Dr. Hartman provided an overview of the options for how the committee might recommend revisions to the standards. Dr. Pittman explained the committee's rationale for wanting to add new grade level expectations, and Mr. Psarakis walked the committee through an example of a new grade level expectation could be used for U.S. History. Committee members asked questions about the suggested approach.

Dr. Pittman moved, and Alysia Bellamy seconded, that the committee move forward with the idea of adding new grade level expectations to grades 6-12. The motion carried unanimously.

Jahi Simbai gave a brief overview of the approach that the elementary group has been using for making recommendations for Kindergarten-Grade 5. The group has a meeting later this week to continue to make recommendations.

Dr. Hartman gave a brief overview of considerations for committee members to consider as they work on their recommendations, including what members might want to do with Black history and culture content that is already in the standards. She also provided an overview of the schedule:

- August 3 and August 17: formulate targeted revisions
- September: review recommendations as a committee
- Oct. 27, 2026: joint meeting with 1192 Commission
- November: make final recommendations

Committee members spent the remainder of the meeting in breakout rooms with their grade band groups discussing recommendations for their grade levels.

The meeting concluded at 8:49pm