

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2009

Members Present:

Charlie Dane; Judy Farabaugh; Connie Goodman; Liz Griffith; Tania Hossain; Jill Jakulski; Abe Jeffers; Young Hee Kang; May Kheder; Steve Rorls; Kathy Rugh; Muna Shami; Emanuel (Manny) Solon; Jennifer Van Pernis; Leslie Vandivere; Sylvia Washington; and Ann Sauherman representing Judy Baldwin.

Staff Present:

Sherry Brathwaite, director, OEC, Alice O'Neill, specialist, OEC and Erik Skinner, specialist, OEC.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda
HRAC Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2009
Handouts related to organization of the writing of the annual report

Meeting:

Mr. Dane convened the meeting at 7 p.m. The minutes of the January 21, 2009, meeting were approved. Mr. Dane reported on the status of the staff response to the annual report. The assistant superintendent will work with staff and HRAC on the report and then the written response will be submitted to the School Board.

Connie Goodman presented on the Blackboard program; also know as 24/7.

Advisory Committee Briefings:

Connie Goodman reported on the Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) held in February 17, 2009. School Board member, Brad Center stated that the board is looking at many options for reorganizing our advanced academic programs. One option would be to establish mini-centers in each school where more children's academic needs can be served. There is no intention of closing AA centers, but to offer more opportunities to general education students. The AAPAC was asked to discuss the issue and submit any questions or concerns to the school board.

Dr. Peter Noonan discussed the reorganization of the Department of Special Services and Instructional services. The intention of the reorganization is to integrate services that may overlap between each department. The departments are looking at the best use of resources, best instructional practices, and student interventions.

Dr. Carol Horn talked about the option of adding a Fairfax County Endorsement for teachers of AAP. It would be similar to the VA endorsement for gifted education but more cost effective. Instead of requiring 4 college level courses the county provides training opportunities through our Professional Learning Academy.

The last half of the meeting the committee spent in work sessions. One group discussed the option outlined by Brad Center and wrote questions and comments for the school board. The second group looked at the draft of the AAPAC's report for the board on assessment strategies for advanced academic students.

Jennifer Van Pernis reported on the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (BCAC) February 10, 2009 meeting. There was a discussion of the budget with mention of the federal stimulus package, property taxes, and savings to be gained by going forward with Gatehouse II proposal. A presentation was given on the community meetings to obtain public comment on the proposed bell schedule. Then, several FCPS staff presented information on the reorganization of Instructional Services which provides for the coordination of a subject in a continuum from pre-K to grade 12 instead of ES, MS, and HS. New

“teams” have been established focusing on subject matter. There is also more group articulation, more focus on professional (teacher) training and each student is expected to take an advanced course. The math program which focused on progression of skills from one level to the next, also had goals of increasing the level of teachers’ knowledge and having students achieve the potential.

Sylvia Washington reported on the Minority Student Oversight Achievement committee meeting held in February, 2009. They discussed the budget and best practices in schools for closing the achievement gap.

New Business:

The four subcommittees reported on their progress to the group. The committee then broke into newly arranged teams with each focused on ES, MS, and HS. Then, after sharing reports from the original three teams, each new team discussed the conclusions from the school visits at their assigned grade level.

Mr. Dane led a discussion on the organization of the annual report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

NOTE: If FCPS schools are closed all day or close early in the afternoon because of inclement weather or some other reason, the HRAC meeting is automatically cancelled.