

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2009**

Members Present:

Charlie Dane; Mark Deal; Judy Farabaugh; Connie Goodman; Liz Griffith; Tania Hossain; Jill Jakulski; Young Hee Kang; Sandy Knox; Barbara Laster; Steve Rorls; Muna Shami; Emanuel (Manny) Solon; Jennifer Van Pernis; Leslie Vandivere; Sylvia Washington; and Jeanie F. Jew representing Debra Spears

Staff Present:

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

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda
HRAC Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2009
Handouts related to the writing of the annual report

Meeting:

Ms. Farabaugh convened the meeting at 7 p.m. The minutes of the February 18, 2009, meeting were approved with revisions. Mr. Dane reported on the status of the staff response to the annual report.

Advisory Committee Briefings:

Leslie Vandivere reported on the Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) held on March 4, 2009. Dr. Carol Horn reported the following:

- Seven additional schools have been identified as Level IV sites for a total of 34.
- Proposed Revised Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students will be posted on the State Board of Educations' website the Friday before its March 26 meeting.

A question regarding public participation at AAPAC meetings led to a discussion about information on the FCPS website. As a result of the discussion, more information about the time and place of AAPAC meetings, as well as a statement that the meetings are open to the public, has been added to its web pages.

The committee assembled into groups with the intention that a draft response to the School Board's charge will be ready for the April meeting. One group continued consideration of the FCPS delivery of GT service model and the other discussed assessment strategies for advanced academic students.

Sylvia Washington reported on the Minority Student Achievement Oversight (MSAOC) committee meeting held in March 2009. MSAOC is very concerned about the FCPS budget and how several successful programs benefiting minority students appear to be disproportionately cut or reduced, including the elimination of several staff liaisons to the committee. Tina Hone, School Board member, reported there is currently no operational plan for closing the achievement gap. The committee will go before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to present its position on several fronts.

Jennifer Van Pernis reported on the Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) meeting. This month's presentation was on Transportation and Community Use of Facilities (CUF). FCPS panelists discussed overall transportation (including academies), possible new bus times schedules and savings through work with Transportation task force re-engineering recommendations. CUF included discussion on high use outside of students during school time and upkeep vs. availability to the community taxpayers. Current budget issues were also discussed.

New Business:

Liz Griffith reported on her subcommittee progress to the group. Liz met with two of the cluster assistant superintendents, Dr. Pajardo and Dr. Krill who were especially concerned about any new communication requirements. She also met with Robin Hamby, specialist with the Family and School Partnerships, who had several communication activities of interest to HRAC.

The committee then broke into teams with each focused on ES, MS, and HS to work on writing the annual report.

A discussion on the organization of this year's HRAC report was held, and comments on the draft Introductory Statement were given. As a result of this discussion it was agreed that the final report with an accompanying statement of appreciation will be sent to all participating schools, and the local school-based human relations committee members will be invited to the HRAC presentation to the School

Board. However, it was decided that the reports on individual schools would be retained by the Team Leaders, but that in the future HRAC should try to allow time for review of content by any participating school or department.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 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.