

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Leonard Bumbaca; Charlie Dane; Judy Farabaugh; Liz Griffith; Tania Hossain; Abe Jeffers; May Kheder; Sandy Knox; Barbara Laster; Steve Rorls; Kathy Rugh; Muna Shami; Emanuel (Manny) Solon; Debra Spears; Jennifer Van Pernis; Leslie Vandivere; Sylvia Washington; and representing Lynne Dubin, D. Bodlander

**Staff Present:**

Sherry Brathwaite, director, Office of Equity and Compliance (OEC); Cindy Trinca, specialist, OEC; and Alice O'Neill, specialist, OEC

**School Board Members Present:**

Daniel G. Storck, chairman  
Jane K. Strauss, liaison chairman

**Materials Distributed:**

Meeting Agenda  
Guidelines for the School Board's Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC)  
Proposed Draft FCPS (Standard, Modified Elementary and Modified Secondary)  
Student Calendar for 2009-2010  
Monthly Calendars for Years 2008, 2009, and 2010  
Summary of Chase's Calendar of Events 2009 and 2010  
School Board's Charge to the HRAC for SY 2008-2009  
Proposed HRAC Meeting Dates  
Annual Report from the 2007-2008 HRAC to the School Board  
Policy 1344 and Regulation 1344 - Local School Organization and Administration  
School; Standard School Year Calendar  
Policy 4910 and Regulation 4910 - Commitment to Human Relations  
Policy 1710 and Regulation 1710 - Citizen's Advisory Committee to the School Board  
Community Dialogue Presentation FCPS Fall 2008 PowerPoint

**Meeting:**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Charlie Dane and Judy Farabaugh, co-chairs provided new members a brief orientation to the committee.

Mr. Dane convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Daniel Storck, addressed the committee and spoke about the role of the committee and the committee's overall relationship with the School Board. Members were then asked to introduce themselves.

After members introduced themselves, Mr. Dane presented the guidelines for conducting the HRAC. He and Ms. Farabaugh will be alternating chairing the

meetings. Mr. Dane asked if the committee members are unable to attend a meeting to notify staff and the co-chairs by email prior to the meeting. He also asked the members to respond to all emails in a timely manner.

Cindy Trinca reviewed the proposed SY 2009-2010 student calendars for modified elementary and secondary school calendars and responded to questions. The discussion of the calendars was led by Charlie Dane. The committee voted against a motion to recommend to the School Board full day student holiday on December 23, 2009, and add an extra day at the end of the school year. Then the committee voted and approved a motion to recommend to the School Board to have a two hour early release for students on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, due to travel constraints.

Jane Strauss led a discussion of the HRAC school year 2008-2009 charge. Ms. Strauss suggested that the committee concentrate on broader cultural diversity in respect to the charge. A suggestion was made that the committee create 3 teams of 3 of members each to visit local school human relations committees. Mr. Dane led a discussion on how to identify which schools. A suggestion was made for principals to self-nominate their school's committee to be visited. One other suggestion was made to pick the schools geographically and look at elementary, middle, and high schools. The committee agreed to revisit the "survey monkey" which was distributed to schools several years ago.

The staff will notify the principals prior to the teams' visit of the purpose of the visit and the committee's charge.

### **New Business:**

Jennifer Van Pernis was appointed to serve as the HRAC representative to the Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory committee (BCAC). Sylvia Washington was appointed to serve as the HRAC representative on the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSOAC) and Leslie Vandivere was appointed to serve as representative on the Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) with the understanding that if Connie Goodman would like to again serve as co-representative, then Leslie would share the responsibility as co-representative.

Ms. Washington briefed the committee on the MSAOC September meeting. The school climate is a major focus this year. Ms. Van Pernis reported on the BCAC September meeting and distributed a Power Point handout on closing the budget gap entitled, "Community Dialogue Presentation FCPS Fall 2008." The BCAC committee discussed the budget and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs made a proposal to recommend delaying the decision on consolidating of administrative facilities.

Members reviewed the meeting schedule for SY 2008-09. The members agreed the meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.–9 p.m. at the Gatehouse Administration Center I on the following dates:

October 15  
November 19

December 17  
January 21  
February 18  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
May/June TBD (School Board Work Session)

Mr. Dane gave a tentative timeline for work on the annual report to the School Board with a review and final edit of the report due by the April 15, 2009, meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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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.