

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2008

Members Present:

Judy Baldwin; Charlie Dane; Lynne Dubin; Judy Farabaugh; Tania Hossain; Jill Jakulski, Abe Jeffers; Olivia Jones-Smith; Young Hee Kang; Sandy Knox; Steve Rorls; Muna Shami; Emanuel (Manny) Solon; Debra Spears; Jennifer Van Pernis; Leslie Vandivere; Sylvia Washington; and representing Barbara Laster, Jacqueline DiMauro

Staff Present:

Sherry Brathwaite, director, Office of Equity and Compliance (OEC); Alice O'Neill, specialist, OEC and Erik Skinner, specialist, OEC.

Visitor:

Karen Mitchem, Mt. Vernon High School and Karen's husband, Mr. Mitchem.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda

HRAC Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2008

Handouts related to charge, team selection, selection of and criteria for school-based human relations committees to visit and draft questions for school based committees.

Meeting:

Ms. Farabaugh convened the meeting at 7 p.m. New members were then asked to introduce themselves. The minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

Advisory Committee Briefings:

Ms. Washington reported that the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSAOC) held their first meeting in October, and had an official review of the extensive achievement gap in FCPS.

The oversight committee is currently identifying schools and other districts where there are examples of "best practices" in attempting to close the achievement gap. There will be a team of members who will look at, visit, and further investigate these schools that are being successful to determine any obstacles, hurdles, and milestones experienced along the road to success. Where feasible, there will be a report with recommendation(s) to the FCPS Board and administration in May, 2009.

The Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) and the Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) will be reported on in the November meeting.

New Business:

Ms. Farabaugh led a discussion of the HRAC school year 2008-2009 charge. Several members had clarifying questions. The merits of visiting high schools were discussed. A motion was made and passed for Ms. Farabaugh and Mr. Dane to communicate with the cluster assistant superintendents to indicate the committee's charge and ask about which schools to visit regarding the charge.

Four focus groups/teams were identified to help divide the work of the charge. Three of the four newly formed teams met to discuss their strategy for visiting local school human relations committees. The groups discussed the approach to take, and questions to ask when visiting the local human relations committees.

The meeting adjourned at 9 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.