

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2008

Members Present:

Judy Baldwin; Leonard Bumbaca; Charlie Dane; Lynne Dubin; Judy Farabaugh; Connie Goodman; Tania Hossain; Abe Jeffers; Olivia Jones-Smith; Young Hee Kang; Sandy Knox; Steve Roris; Kathy Rugh, Emanuel (Manny) Solon; Jennifer Van Pernis; Leslie Vandivere; Sylvia Washington; and Jacqueline DiMauro representing Barbara Laster

Staff Present:

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

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda
HRAC Meeting Minutes –October 17, 2008
Handouts related to team work on the school-based human relations committees

Meeting:

Mr. Dane convened the meeting at 7 p.m. The minutes of the October 17, 2008, meeting was approved.

Advisory Committee Briefings:

Leslie Vandivere reported on the Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) held November 11, 2008, at which, Joyce Van Tassel-Baska and Lori Bland, Center for Gifted Education, College of William & Mary, presented a program about Assessing Advanced Learners using Performance Assessment. Benefits of performance assessment include:

- Students demonstrate essential knowledge and skills
- Prepares students for AP or IB program, advanced courses, and college courses.

Examples are:

- Fowler Test (design an experiment based on a question)
- Writing prompt (should book X be required reading for your grade?)
- Literary analysis
- Math (using Math Olympiad problem sets)

Connie Goodman reported on the AAPAC held on December 9, 2008. Assistant superintendent Peter Noonan discussed the performance indicators being used to assess advanced academic progress. Currently, the approved indicators are the number of students that earn advanced diplomas, the number of graduating seniors that have successfully completed one to three AP/IB courses, and the number of students that receive a advanced score on the SOLs.

Mr. Noonan also shared the performance bands that were presented to the School Board on progress on three student performance goals. The PowerPoint presented to the Board is available on the FCPS web site www.fcps.edu under School Board. The presentation can be found under Current Board documents. It is the monitoring report of the three performance goals.

The assistant superintendent also gave a brief update on the budget process. Dr. Dale will release his proposed budget to the Board on January 8, 2009.

Dr. Carol Horn, coordinator of Advance Academic Programs, gave a status report on the revision of the regulations governing gifted programs in Virginia. The DOE recommendations have been revised based on the many (815) people that posted comments or sent letters to the DOE. The new recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education on March 26, 2009.

The rest of the meeting was spent in round table discussion of two articles about assessment in education. One from Educational Leadership titled "Learning to Love Assessment" discussing informative assessment. The second article "Assessment's Double Role for the Gifted" from The Journal of Secondary Gifted Education discussed using authentic assessments such as rubrics and portfolio assessments that presented open ended questions and authentic data of student learning.

Sylvia Washington reported on the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSAOC) meeting. The recently honored numerous Fairfax County schools with highly diverse populations, who have managed to show substantial gains in their SOL test scores. The principals and/or their representatives shared insight as to how they and their staffs grapple with their many challenges, yet have succeeded in reaching many of their academic goals. MSAOC will begin the process of identifying other schools' successes, and is focusing on the current budget crisis and its effect on programs essential to minority student achievement.

Jennifer VanPernis reported on the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (BCAC) meetings: October - Presentation on equitable distribution of resources to schools and the addition to Gatehouse Administration Building complex; November - Legislative Breakfast - Budget looks bleak; and December - Presentation of differing views of the Fairgrade issue, budget progress, and budget handouts

New Business:

The question as to how the response to HRAC's annual report is drafted, reviewed, and adopted was discussed.

Ms. Jones-Smith reviewed her teams work on Cluster II and III local human relations committee visits of Pimmit Hills High School, Luther Jackson Middle School, and Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

Ms. Vandivere reviewed her teams work on Cluster I, VII, and VIII local human relations committee visits. She highlighted Franklin Middle School of the four schools her team visited so far.

Ms. VanPernis's team has visited one school of their Cluster IV, V, and VI and has several scheduled visits in January 2009.

The review of the teams work generated much discussion on the purpose and scope of the local human relations committees. Several members suggested more research on how local committees handle human relations challenges so that other schools can use their example to overcome obstacles they have encountered.

Mr. Dane distributed a communications form to be used to identify and describe the various methods of media communication that FCPS uses. He is working on the fourth team's effort to identify how best to communicate the various individual schools HR success stories to all schools.

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.