

Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee Meeting Notes

October 12, 2022

Members in Attendance:

K. Amenabar	Q. Craig	M. Lavalley	E. Osborne	P. Simpkins
S. Ashok	M. Dickey	V. Long	R. Pérez	A. Smith
G. Becerra	L. Henson	S. Mascoll	D. Quan	M. Vereb
J. Bensinger	A. Janan	S. McKinney	N. Samaniego	K. White
H. Capps	K. Kardelis	A. Mukuna	R. Shaw	

24 members were present. Quorum was met.

Other Attendees:

S. Presidio

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as submitted.

6:30 pm Welcome & Updates:

Student Representatives were recently nominated and as this was their first meeting, they introduced themselves. Andrea-Grace Mukuna is a senior at Lewis HS and Shanthi Ashok is a senior at Oakton HS. Both are part of the Student Equity Ambassador Leaders (SEALs) program.

Recommendations for the case against mandatory reporting of disruptive behavior was sent to the School Board.

Dr. Bussey Tribute updates were provided

- Award proposal has been drafted & will be sent to members.
- Scholarship is tabled for the moment as ways to fund and sustain funding are explored.
- School Board Provision to not absorb MSAOC into other groups – will be discussed with Karen Keys-Gamarra
- Parent Advocacy Handbook acknowledgement – tabled until the next revisions but is possible in the on-line version
- School Board Resolution – Karen Keys-Gamarra will work with colleagues on the resolution. MSAOC will be invited to attend the meeting.
- Naming the Parent Resource center is a resolution Ms. Keys-Gamarra supports. Executive committee will discuss next steps.

The Parent Advocacy Handbook was discussed. Printed copies of the handbook are in the warehouse in Springfield. The numbers are:

- English – 7500
- Spanish – 5228
- Arabic – 713
- Chinese – 713
- Korean – 713

Dr. Presidio shared that we may be able to get staff to support with sending out books.

Although they were printed last year, the handbooks are still highly relevant since they detail how to get information, where to get answers to questions, and how to take action. Copies will be distributed to:

- Schools & Centers

- Parent Resource Center
- Central Registration at Dunn Loring
- Ombuds Office

There was discussion about how to best train staff on the use of the handbook and how to reach out to families to let them know it exists. Kim has spoken to the coordinator of Family & School Partnerships about getting some time with Parent Liaisons at their virtual meetings.

Suggestions presented were:

- Communicate prior to distribution with principals and Parent Liaisons so they can send out information in their communications with families.
- Contact the new Chief Experience & Engagement officer, Lisa Hall to see if her offices can support with the training.
- Create a presentation that school-based staff could use to explain the handbook to families.
- Partner with PTAs to distribute and host events where families could be given the handbook and walked through its use.
- Create a video presentation for families to share in News You Choose and on school websites showing where to access the handbook and how to use it.
- Connect with Directors of Student Services, Counselors, After School Specialists, and Equity Leads to let them know about the handbook and how to use it.

Member Guidelines based on the bylaws were sent out in advance of the meeting. Kenny highlighted a few of the more important points and asked for members to email him with any questions.

7:20 pm Member Highlight:

Michelle Lavalley shared the purpose and activities of the Hispanic Educator's Association. They connect Hispanic educators as well as supporters to Hispanic/Latino families. The group advocates for academic success, hiring of diverse staff, and culturally responsive family engagement. In conjunction with the Hispanic Leadership Alliance, they provided 26 scholarships to students last year.

7:35 pm Staff Response to the 2021 – 2022 Annual Report:

The Staff Response to MSAOC's 2021 - 2022 Annual Report was sent out to all members prior to the meeting. George Becerra called for a period of questions and comments from the group.

Bob Shaw asked about the specifics of following up on the families that left the school system. Dr. Presidio shared that there were multiple efforts made to discover the barriers to returning but would be willing to ask leadership to do further research. Schools did contact every family that didn't come back but there may have been less data on the reasons than desired. Qia Craig made a suggestion to create a simple exit interview for families leaving in the future. A suggestion was made to break down the data further by region and school level. Karen Keys-Gamarra, School Board Liaison introduced herself and welcomed continuing and new members to the group. She stated that she looks forward to working closely and collaborating with the committee.

7:50 pm Overview of FCPS Chief Offices and Introduction of Subcommittees to support the 2022 – 2023 Charge:

Kim Amenabar presented an overview of the FCPS organization and the functions of the various Chief Offices:

- [Chief Academic Office](#) (CAO)
- [Chief Equity Office](#) (CEO)
- [Chief Operating Office](#) (COO)
- Chief Experience and Engagement Office (CXO)

This overview also provided information on the working groups for this year to support the Equity focus of our charge. The Subcommittees will be:

- Teaching & Learning
- School Environment
- School Operations
- Partnership & Engagement

A form will be sent for members to choose a working group.

8:15 pm Committee Business:

Nominations for Co-Chair in Waiting - George shared that we are still looking for people to step forward to be co-chair in waiting. There was discussion about the possibly of changing the bylaws since they currently state that only 1 co-chair can be an FCPS employee. The group will weigh the options once all nominations have been put forward. The plan is to follow the current bylaws if possible. Those who are interested should email Kenny White.

Questions for Dr. Reid - Kenny asked that members generate questions or topics to send to Dr. Reid prior to her speaking at our meeting next month. Submit questions by Oct 21st..

8:32 pm Call for Motion to Adjourn:

Margo Dickey moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Shaw seconded and the meeting was adjourned. Becerra called for a motion to adjourn. Margot Dickey seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022, 6:30pm