

**Madison Metropolitan School District
Madison, Wisconsin**

Art Rainwater, Superintendent

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for EQUITY TASK FORCE
October 30, 2006**

**Doyle Administration Building, Room 103
545 West Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin**

The Equity Task Force was called to order by Jack Jorgensen at 7:43 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christa Bruhn, David Cohen, Lisa Cuevas, Zina Knox, Thomas Mertz, Glenn Parks, Wendy Sauve, Jackie Woodruff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rafael Gomez, Tiffany Jones, Paul Kusuda, Toya Robinson, Matt Silvern, Beth Swedeen

STAFF PRESENT: Jack Jorgensen, Kathleen Lyngaas, Ann Wilson – Recording Secretary

1. *Approval of Minutes*

It was moved by David Cohen and seconded by Thomas Mertz to approve the minutes of the Equity Task Force meeting dated October 17, 2006. Motion unanimously carried by those present.

Jack Jorgensen noted he will check with Principal Alan Harris at East and Assistant Superintendent Pam Nash about getting student representation and also whether it would be possible, at this point in the Task Force's work, for a student to become knowledgeable and fully participate.

2. *Legal Counsel's Process for Review of the Proposed Equity Policy*

(Written materials provided in advance: Memorandum from Clarence Sherrod dated October 17, 2006 re: Legal Counsel's Review Process - attached to the original copy of these minutes.)

The written information from Attorney Sherrod was reviewed. It was noted that perhaps some of the information in the proposed policy might be appropriate in the Philosophy of Education portion of board policy rather than in the policy itself.

3. *Review Progress towards Gathering Community and Stakeholder Input*

(Written materials provided – Timeline for Completion of Work and Presentation of Recommended Policy to the Board of Education - attached to the original copy of these minutes.)

Jackie Woodruff shared her experiences in asking for input from the Mosaic Group at Memorial. She suggested there be a plan for using alternate methods of gaining input and that the PowerPoint presentation be reviewed and simplified. Paul Kusuda's recommendations were reviewed (keep it simple, delete some slides). There were other recommendations to reduce the amount of text on a slide and to remove the background pictures. There was discussion about whether to use a PowerPoint presentation at all. It was noted that one purpose is to assure that all groups receive the same information; other purposes are to provide notes to the presenter and text for interpreters. If not using the PowerPoint, it would be helpful to have a written handout noting the key or most important concepts.

There was a review of progress in gathering input. David Cohen listed groups he would meet with in the East attendance area (meeting at the Hawthorne Branch Library, Northside groups, community center, for example). He noted that subcommittee member Rafael Gomez indicated he would do groups in the other attendance areas but did not have specific information at this time. Zina Knox indicated she would get input from West student groups (Black Student Union, clubs, and student council). David Cohen and Kathy Lyngaas will meet with the Superintendent's Human Relations Advisory Committee; Jack Jorgensen will facilitate with Principals and also ask them to ask school staffs to complete the on-line survey. Thomas Mertz offered to meet with citizens at the Boys and Girls Club. Kathy Lyngaas cautioned that all groups need to be represented in the input received. There was discussion about whether respondents on the website should be identified by group (e.g., staff, student, community member, etc.)

Other suggested groups for receiving input: district staff on the web; forward request to PTO President's group to send information via backpack mail; ask staff to participate via *MMSD Today*; post signs at computers in local libraries; community member advocacy groups.

FOLLOW-UP:

- Check with Rafael Gomez regarding the groups in the La Follette, Memorial and West attendance areas.
- Get a progress report of how many responses there have been to the survey on the website.
- Any Task Force members interested in assisting at these sessions should contact a member of the subcommittee – David Cohen, Wendy Sauve, Rafael Gomez.
- Develop a sign that could be posted at libraries and other places and forward electronically to Task Force members.
- Christa Bruhn and Thomas Mertz volunteered to edit/simplify the PowerPoint presentation and develop a handout of key concepts.
- David Cohen requested 80 copies of the handout each in English, Spanish and Hmong.
- The survey questions on the website and in translated versions need to match the wording agreed upon and noted in the October 17 meeting minutes.

At the next meeting there will be a preview of the feedback already received and a discussion of how to proceed as well as a review of the timeline. There was a reminder that all Task Force members are invited to help with the work of the subcommittees with the suggestion that members cover their representative attendance areas. Christa Bruhn and Matt Silvern volunteered to help Subgroup 3 (summarize and analyze data and report input); Zina Knox will work with Subgroup 2 (gather and organize input).

4. Review Current Equity Policy

(Written materials provided - Subcommittee on Reviewing Existing Equity Policy dated October 30, 2006 – attached to the original copy of these minutes.)

The written material prepared by the subcommittee was reviewed. The subcommittee hoped that the information would be read and considered before there is work on reviewing and revising the implementation strategies. They hoped thought would be given to items that are in the existing policy and not included in the proposed new policy, and what the reason for that would be, and that there would be a check of what might be missing from the proposed policy.

DISCUSSION:

- Different demographics now than when the policy was originally written.
- Should consider guidance in funding/resource areas. Range of available allocations to schools is very small. Would be satisfied with a series of suggestions under strategy "District resources based on student needs."
- Race needs to be a consideration in addition to socioeconomic situation.
- Racial and socioeconomic diversity in the school and between schools and class placement have not been addressed.
- Use tools already in place like the SIP process. Powerful tool that should be reviewed frequently and that addresses many issues.
- Review "triggers" in the policy that would signal change needs to occur.
- Using the outline prepared by the subcommittee as a way to look at strategies would be helpful. Concern that deeper level of discussion (e.g., formulas) would delay/hamper progress because of time to build knowledge base and ability to come to agreement.

The subcommittee notes will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

FOLLOW-UP:

- Request to see Administration's response to Board Member Ruth Robarts' request for information: what the allocation to schools would look like using the ENI/ERF to give supplemental staff commensurate with educational needs in the school.

5. Review and Revise Implementation Strategies

This item was not discussed and will be included on the next agenda.

6. Adjournment

It was moved by Wendy Sauve and seconded by Jackie Woodruff to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by those present.