

**Madison Metropolitan School District
Madison, Wisconsin**

Art Rainwater, Superintendent

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for EQUITY TASK FORCE
November 27, 2006**

**Doyle Administration Building, Room 209
545 West Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin**

The Equity Task Force was called to order by Jack Jorgensen at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christa Bruhn, David Cohen, Lisa Cuevas, Rafael Gomez (arrived at 6:33 p.m.), Zina Knox, Paul Kusuda, Thomas Mertz, Glenn Parks (left at 7:12 p.m.), Wendy Sauve (left at 8:45 p.m.), Matt Silvern, Beth Swedeen, Jackie Woodruff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Jones, Toya Robinson

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

1. *Approval of Minutes*

It was moved by Jackie Woodruff and seconded by Thomas Mertz to approve the minutes of the Equity Task Force meeting dated November 6, 2006. Motion unanimously carried by those present.

2-7. *Task Force Membership*

Jack Jorgensen relayed information he received from Attorney Clarence Sherrod regarding membership and quorum requirements. He indicated that loss or resignation of a member who is not able to attend does not reduce the quorum requirements. The requirements could be changed if the Board of Education amended the membership. Regarding student membership, it was commented that good student voices were heard during the important early work of the Task Force and that it would be very difficult, at this stage of the Task Force's work, for a new student member to participate in a meaningful way. There were actually only a few instances when a quorum was not reached, and there is good success at reaching a quorum when members are polled in advance about whether they can attend.

It was moved by Thomas Mertz and seconded by Rafael Gomez to table indefinitely items 2-6 as listed on the agenda:

2. **Recommitment to attend meetings from three high school students and other members of the Task Force who have not been regularly attending meetings.**
3. **Resignation of three high school students and other members of the Task Force who have not been regularly attending meetings and who have not recommitted to regularly attend future meetings.**
4. **Recruit up to three high school students to replace the three high school members who have resigned, failed to regularly attend meetings, or failed to recommit to the regular attendance at future meetings.**
5. **Recruit individuals to replace other members who have resigned, failed to regularly attend meetings, or failed to recommit to the regular attendance at future meetings.**
6. **Go back to the Board of Education and ask the Board to drop the membership requirement of one student from each attendance area and the membership of any other position on the Task Force in which members have not been regularly attending meetings, have resigned or not committed to regular attendance at future meetings.**

Motion unanimously carried by those present.

It was moved by Jackie Woodruff and seconded by Thomas Mertz to continue to meet and try to achieve a quorum with the current membership of the Task Force. Motion unanimously carried by those present.

8. Progress Report on Community and Student and Staff Feedback

(Written materials provided: Summaries of responses to question 1 (3) not dated nor titled; packet of feedback received to date – attached to the original copy of these minutes.)

Subcommittee members (Beth Swedeen, Wendy Sauve, Matt Silvern, Kathy Lyngaas) briefly summarized the responses to the first question (also presented in written form) and what they thought were the highlights. It was noted that one purpose of gathering feedback is to identify what may have been missed or should be changed in some way. Beth Swedeen indicated some concern with the definition – that there seemed to be a comfort level with the first part (equity assures full access to opportunities), but less with whether it resulted in the second part (educational excellence and social responsibility).

Kathy Lyngaas provided copies of the feedback gathered to date. She asked that any feedback not yet turned in be submitted as soon as possible. She noted that all translation (up to the time of this meeting) has been completed. She noted that all sessions held to gather feedback should be included on the master list prepared by Wendy Sauve; that list was routed and updated.

DISCUSSION:

- Learned from radio experience about cultural differences. Some in Spanish speaking community need education about civic process. Citizens have the right to speak with the school; it is not an impingement on an authority. A policy for equal education sets up a contract with parents. Based on such a promise, parents can demand services and accountability. Could be a springboard to other discussions, other learning.
- Communities need preparation to advocate for themselves; don't "own" the advocacy.

It was determined the subcommittee needs to meet at least once more, maybe two times.

There was a question about feedback being received that would be of value but is not directly related to the Task Force. It was noted the Board of Education will have access to all data collected by the Task Force and that there could be an addendum to the report which could include these other kinds of feedback and any other information the Task Force chooses to include. Task Force members were asked to keep track of any items they would like to include in an addendum.

9. Continue Refinement of Implementation Strategies

(Written materials provided: Implementation Strategy – What are they responsible for? Who is responsible? Who is affected? How are they held accountable? dated 11/9/06 – attached to the original copy of these minutes.)

The next step in working with implementation strategies was to define responsibility. At the last meeting, Task Force members indicated all the entities that had some responsibility for each of the strategies. It was suggested that one group be assigned responsibility for each, possibly two that would have co-responsibility, and that secondary responsibility could also be noted. That exercise was completed and results will be added to the chart (reordered by primary responsibility). It was determined that the section "Who is affected?" be eliminated and that the State/Federal column under "Who Is Responsible" be eliminated. Regarding accountability, it was noted a list of ideas was generated at an earlier (May) meeting that could be reviewed.

A work group will meet to draft a statement of commitment. The Guiding Principles will serve as the basis for the statement. Thomas Mertz will lead the group. Lisa Cuevas, Rafael Gomez and Christa Bruhn expressed interest in working with the group.

An additional meeting will be scheduled on December 4 or 5. Agenda items will include continued report of feedback received, continued work on responsibility for implementation strategies, and a report from the workgroup drafting a statement of commitment.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Christa Bruhn and seconded by Rafael Gomez to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by those present.