

BISD Multicultural Advisory Council

Minutes for Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Filipino-American Hall

Voting Members in attendance:

Karen Vargas
Katy Curtis
Kathryn McGowan
Marsha Cutting
Steven Soltar
Joyce Nishimura
Kristine Jimenez

BISD Members in attendance:

Juan Pedro Fasquet
Beth Riggs
Susan Tolley Margaret Hitchcock
Brandy Bispham
Sheryl Belt

This was a short business meeting prior to an open house for community members including parents and students.

Elections:

The current officers agreed to continue in office as there were no nominations resulting in contested positions. Additionally, Joyce Nishimura agreed to be a co-vice chair. The slate of officers is as follows:

Co-Chair: Katy Curtis & Karen Vargas
Co-Vice-Chair: Kathy McGowan & Joyce Nishimura
Co-Recorder/Treas: Marsha Cutting & Steve Soltar

Please note that we did not have a quorum of voting members in attendance. Therefore no vote was taken.

Culture Fair:

Members who attended Culture Fair shared their observations on what went well and what needs improvement. Community turnout for the fair was very good with many participating groups and a large audience. There were a few logistical issues concerning the food trucks and performances. One group from Poulsbo was on stage longer than expected and two African American groups were therefore unable to perform due to a lack of time. MAC will contact these two groups and send a letter of apology to them.

What we learned is that this event will need a larger venue in the future with clear direction and facilitation of the performances. All in all, the evening was successful. Thanks are due to all who contributed to the planning and operation of this year's Culture Fair. Special thanks to

Joyce Nishimura for her efforts to assure our community continues to celebrate its diverse cultural composition.

MAC Annual Report:

MAC intends to present our annual report on June 28th to the School Board at its meeting.

We will strongly recommend that as many of the district's leadership members as possible attend the Race and Pedagogy National Conference September 27 – 29 this coming Fall. Sheryl reported that the district has some funds available that could potentially be used for this purpose.

MAC Retreat:

We set Saturday, September 15th as the date for our 2018 – 19 School Year Retreat.

Community Potluck and Discussion:

Following the business meeting, we enjoyed a potluck with our guests. We asked the children in attendance what they liked and did not like about their school experience. During this discussion we heard from two African-American middle school students who have been frequently approached by fellow students who touch their hair without permission. Even those who ask to do so contribute to the discomfort of these two children. They do report that they are comfortable to ask for help from their teacher(s) and that the teacher responds each time by addressing the transgressors individually. Last year, one of these two students wrote and read a poem to the class about the hair touching incidents. The result was that it stopped. The report of these two children suggests we need to better equip our teaching staff to make use of this type of incident as a learning opportunity for the class at large, rather than as learning or just as policing for one student at a time.