

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Cultural Diversity Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Board of Education Conference Room
501 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT

MINUTES

1. Committee members in attendance: Walter Donne, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Richard Joslin, Steve O'Connell, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Trudi Durrell, Laura Cretella, Mimi Maniscalco, Ken Seltzer and Anna Cutaia-Leonard and Board of Education Member, Stacey Zahn.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
3. The committee reviewed the short-term 2009-2010 strategies. Those strategies included mailing brochures out to local preschools and families of incoming kindergarteners, meeting with school PTAs, and considering various marketing strategies. Ms. Cutaia-Leonard informed the committee that due to a lack of a budget that the committee would need to consider cost-free advertising options such as: press releases, writing Op-Ed pieces, public/community service announcements, the use of Fair TV, and advertising at local libraries, churches and pediatric offices.
4. The committee discussed the timeline for putting these actions into place. The timeline needed to be a fast tracked timeline as to get out ahead of kindergarten registration. First the Subcommittee for Facilities, Technology, and Long-Range Planning would need to discuss the recommendation for opening up Opt-In to McKinley to the ten elementary schools. Additionally, the Fairfield Board of Education would need to discuss the item, vote and approve the action before the short-term strategies could be implemented. Ms. Cutaia-Leonard will communicate with the Chair of the Standing Committee for Facilities, Technology, and Long-Range Planning in order to get this item on the upcoming January 12 meeting. Additionally, she will request that he bring the item up for discussion at the full BOE meeting on January 12 and request that it go on as a voting item on January 26.
5. The committee discussed supplemental programming options and a magnet school option. Information was shared about the International Baccalaureate Program which is being implemented in Stamford Public Schools and Greenwich Public Schools. Open House opportunities are available at the International

School at Rogers Magnet in Stamford. Ms. Durrell is meeting with representatives of Greenwich Public Schools to review what is involved with opening a magnet school including start-up costs. Ms. McCarthy Vahey asked that we investigate the possibility of opening a gifted magnet school.

6. During Open Discussion, Ms. McCarthy Vahey shared a letter that Mr. O'Connell drafted to send to the BOE to formally request the assignment of a BOE member to the Cultural Diversity Task Force. This item will again be discussed at the next meeting.
7. The next meeting will be held on February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.