

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Cultural Diversity Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Conference Room
501 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT

MINUTES

1. Committee members in attendance: Walter Donne, Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Richard Joslin, Trudi Durrell, Mimi Maniscalco, Dale Bernardoni, Ken Seltzer and Anna Cutaia-Leonard.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.
3. Dr. Bernardoni and Anna Cutaia-Leonard reviewed all of the actions to date related to promoting the Opt-In to McKinley option available to Fairfield families. Those actions include but are not limited to: attending PTA meetings at each elementary school, mailings to incoming kindergarten students, mailings to local area preschools, and information available on Fair TV.
4. The committee extensively discussed the criteria by which students will be approved for opt-in to McKinley. Although many factors were considered, the committee drew their attention to the Plan to Reduce Racial Imbalance which includes the consideration of students who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch and those who meet grade level benchmarks on CMT. Additionally, the committee discussed the possibility of creating a wait list and the development of future reviews of applications in consideration of future enrollment changes at McKinley.
5. Trudi Durrell shared information about the magnet school program in Greenwich.
6. During Open Discussion, the committee discussed the news article on the Greenwich magnet programs, the possible closing of Holy Family School and its impact on McKinley enrollment and the future Opt-Out option for McKinley families. Additionally, the next agenda will include discussion about a letter to the BOE requesting a BOE liaison to be appointed to the Cultural Diversity Task Force.
7. The next meeting will be held on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

