

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Cultural Diversity Task Force Meeting

Monday, October 25, 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, Steve O'Connell, Ginger Vail, and Anna Cutaia-Leonard. Stacey Zahn, Board of Education member and Dr. David Title, Superintendent of Schools was also in attendance.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
3. Anna Cutaia-Leonard provided an update on 2010-2011 Opt-In and Opt-Out. A summary of opt-in and opt-out from 2007 – 2010 was shared.
4. The Addendum to the Racial Imbalance Plan was submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education on September 15, 2010. The committee reviewed the proposed action steps and developed a timeline of work. They will request technical assistance from the Connecticut State Department of education this fall/winter; the community conversation will be planned for sometime between January and March; a subcommittee of individuals will start working on a parent survey in November; and a presentation to the PTA Council will be scheduled for January or February.
5. The Connecticut State Department of Education has not shared the new methodology of how racial imbalance will be determined this year as the ethnic coding fields and requirements have changed. Therefore, preliminary in-district racial imbalance numbers were unable to be calculated.
6. During open discussion Task Force members engaged in a conversation about McKinley's No Child Left Behind status. Failure to make adequate yearly progress resulted in "Year 1" of being in "need of improvement" according to the Connecticut State Department of Education. The charge to the Cultural Diversity Task Force includes a review of student achievement results. The committee discussed at length the separation of responsibilities regarding school improvement planning and data analysis as related to the work of the Task Force and that of administrators and educators. It was decided that Dr. Vail, principal of McKinley Elementary, will share some data analysis and review the school improvement plan with the Task Force at the next meeting.
7. The next meeting will be held on December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.