

December 4, 2010

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

Thursday, December 4, 2010

Blue Room,

333 South Beaudry Ave. Room 122

Los Angeles, CA 90017

M e e t i n g A g e n d a

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes November 2010
- IV. Commission Members Items
 - a. Dan Alba, *CRRE Achievement Gap* & Board Resolution
 - b. Dan Alba, Doug Semark & Joyce Germaine Watts, *Moral Imperative* (January)
 - c. Michele Wittig & Obie Slamon: SFV Community Forum
 - d. Cathy Figel, continuation of discussion on LGBT, *carried over*
- V. Staff Reports
- VI. Discussion Items
- VII. Chairperson's Report
- VIII. Council Members Announcements
- IX. Public Comment (2-minutes)
- X. Review Action Item
- XI. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 6, 2011

Upcoming meetings, 1st Thursdays: February 3; March 3; April 7; May 5; June 2

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Chief Operating Officer
Office of Human Relations Diversity and Equity

Commission on Human Relations

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, December 4, 2010

**333 South Beaudry Ave. Room 202
Los Angeles, CA 9001**

PRESENT:

Abelsson, Mark	selected
Figel, Cathy	UTLA
Germaine Watts, Joyce	selected
Greene, David	Vladovic (7)
Hopwood, Michael	LaMotte (1)
Horton, Jeff	Zimmer (4)
Jacobs, Lloyd Bud	Superintendent
LeMay, Beverly	selected
Slamon, Obie	Galatzan
Smith, Frieda	AALA
Vega-Olds, Eva	selected
Wittig, Michele	Martinez (6)

STAFF

Chiasson, Judy

ABSENT

Alba, Dan	selected
Cruz, Sheldon	LA City/Alt
De la Rosa, Gary	selected
Halpert-Schilt, Elena	Co HRC/Alt
Narcho, Charles	selected
Semark, Doug	selected
Parker, Ashley	AALA
Toma, Robin	LACoHRC

VACANT

LACOE
Flore-Aguilar (5)
Garcia, (2)
SIEU

Meeting open at 6:10 pm

November minutes approved with corrections

I. Review of first Human Relations forum held at 186th Street Elementary School, October 8

- David Greene presented his report on the first human relations forum. The report was a collaboration with Doug Semark & Gary de la Rosa. Discussion ensued:
- 186 ES is an unusual school in that it has a strong principal where the philosophy of peace is strongly infused on the campus. May not represent the community.
- Noted that the students view the school and the community in a more positive light than do the staff, parents or community members. Possible reasons:

- The students attending the forum were also on the International Choir. They likely feel connected with the school and may have a different perspective than others. They are not a representative sample.
- Adults are shielding the children
- Children's worlds have different stressors than the adults do.
- Suggestions of ways to capture more voices and real issues:
 - Do a survey
 - Present community with the hate crime stats as a prompt. Ask them to explain their understandings of those stats
- Others were concerned that presenting crime data would skew the focus to be primarily negative
- Hate crimes data do not capture the human relations conflicts of bullying, bias, disrespect, etc.
- Figel pointed out the trade off between test scores & human relations.
- Watts reminded commission of neuro-science evidence that exposure to violence and trauma interfere with academic learning.

Extended conversation about presenting this report to the Board.

- Horton feels the commission should not be shy about reporting. Given that the board is considering a parent engagement proposal, this is the prime time to do so. Stressed that visibility is critical. Commission will gain credibility by having initiative.
- Discussion about whether to do so now or wait until more forums have been conducted, and to consider that the strongest voice could be a non-Commissioner (e.g., a community member).
- Jacobs thought that since BM Vladovic launched the commission, perhaps he should introduce the commission to the Board.
- Vega Olds and others noted that there is abundant research on human relations and community concerns. Recommended writing a white paper to supplement the forums' findings.

MOTION to present Horton's Moral Imperative (January 2010) was approved. Chiasson will make the calls; Abelsson will present along with whoever else is available. Smith requested that he also mention that moving in excess of 50% of clerical staff from a given school damages human relations; that should be a stronger consideration than seniority alone.

II.. Michele Wittig & Obie Slamon, San Fernando Valley Forum

Proposing:

An outreach forum targeting one of both of the following Parent Groups in the SF Valley: Family Center coordinators; Council of Council members.

a) this would ensure greater diversity of viewpoints, since family center coordinators tend to be dedicated primarily to serving underserved families and parent council leaders tend to be drawn from the ranks of parents who are strongly engaged with schools. These are overlapping, but certainly not identical, constituencies.

b) a joint meeting might result in their harnessing their respective strengths for promoting greater equity than either group alone might be able to muster.

2. PURPOSE

To gather info concerning human relations, diversity and equity issues that LAUSD parents in the SF Valley are facing, so as to:

a) combine what we learn with the info being gathered by other commissioners who are organizing outreach forums in other locales (which would then inform our commission agenda to advise the Board of Education) and

b) be a catalyst for the target groups to address the needs they identify I.e., regardless of whether the Board listens to us or not, we hope to promote problem-solving at the grassroots directly.

NEXT STEP

Obie and Michele will meet with Leah and Rose from the District 1 office on Tues, Dec 7 to receive their input on best ways to proceed.

Wittig thought that parent engagement is a useful opening and any findings will likely mirror the literature. Suggested that the Commission help people solve their own problems – a Board directive is not necessary for that.

Slamon & Wittig will hook into the existing Parent Center Directors and Council of Council meetings that have notable attendance (55 and 72 respectively) rather than create a unique stand alone forum.

Commission discussed the benefits and costs of having different stakeholders at the upcoming Forums.

The SFV Forum will be in February.

Michael Hopwood will organize one for LD 7 in March.

III. Cathy Figel – “LAUSD Effectively addressing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues”

Carried over until January. Figel asked commissioners to speak with their board members and be prepared to discuss steps to end anti-gay language on campuses.

Handouts:

- November 2010 minutes
- LA Times *Parents as students* November 30, 2010
- Greene report on 186th Street ES Forum, October 16, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

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 - a. Cathy Figel, continuation of discussion on LGBT
 - b. Michele Wittig & Obie Slamon: SFV Community Forum
 - c. Bud Jacobs, inter-district communication on school climate and culture as related to human relations.
- XVI. Staff Reports
- XVII. Discussion Items
- XVIII. Chairperson's Report
- XIX. Council Members Announcements
- XX. Public Comment (2-minutes)
- XXI. Review Action Item
- XXII. Adjournment

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333 South Beaudry Ave., Los Angeles, 90017

Blue Room #122 (Adjacent to the first floor Board Room)