

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

Thursday, January 8, 2015

**333 South Beaudry Ave., Blue Room, 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 December 2014
- IV. Commission Members Items
 - a. Ethnic Studies
 - b. Restorative Justice
- 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 MEETINGS: 2nd Thursdays 2015: February 12, March 12, April 16, May 14, June 11

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

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Commission on Human Relations

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, January 8, 2015

333 South Beaudry Ave. Blue Room
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PRESENT:

Abelsson, Mark	selected	Slamon, Obie	Galatzan (3)
Chiasson, Judy	staff	Toma, Robin	LACoHRC
De La Rosa, Gary	City HRC	Villasenor, Patricia	LA City HRC
Fajardo, Joel	Ratliff (6)	Wheldon, Floyd	AALA
Germaine Watts, Joyce	selected		
Jacobs, Lloyd "Bud"	Superintendent		
Tarrant, Karen	Kayser (5)		
Reynolds, Dave	ADL		
Train, Sara	Garcia (2)		
Wittig, Michele	Zimmer (4)		

VACANT

SEIU
UTLA
LACOE
Vladovic (7)

GUESTS:

Angel Barrett, Executive Director of
Curriculum and Instruction
Sean Coppedge-Abajian
Javier San Roman

ABSENT

Givens, Dermot	McKenna (1)
Kim, Jung	ALT/AALA
LeMay, Beverly	selected
Narcho, Charles	select

Quorum was met. Meeting convened at 6:15 p.m.

December minutes were approved.

Ethnic Studies

Presentation by Angel Barrett, Sean Coppedge-Abajian and Javier San Roman regarding
Ethnic Studies Program

Distributed copies of the resolution

In the initial planning stages of identifying schools/districts/teachers where Ethnic
Studies is in place and selecting participants to be invited to be on the committee.

Discussed the several considerations:

The course is a graduation requirement that has not yet being piloted

Cost of 4 million for the pilot at 25 schools (5 in each ESC)

What classes and the corresponding teachers will be displaced in favor of Ethnic
Studies?

What is impact of student access to electives and advanced placement courses

Current social studies framework of 2002 has minimal inclusion of Ethnic Studies
The implementation time called for in the Board resolution does not allow adequate time for a course to be developed, piloted and implemented, especially if this is to be a 9th grade course.

Q – is this a menu of courses or will it be standardized? A- flexibility for schools to select what meets their needs. Currently have Asian, Latino & African American

Maybe backed up to a 9th grade health course

Exploring the idea of revising current courses (e.g., History) to accommodate the Ethnic studies requirement

What about credit recovery for those who don't pass?

Blended learning and pilot schools have minimal leeway in their curriculum to accommodate another class.

The resolution time line requirements are challenging. E.g., if Ethnic studies is a 9th grade class, the 9th graders won't have an opportunity to take the class before the implementation deadline.

Q – what was the motivation for Ethnic studies? A – El Rancho has 3 high schools that are heavily Latino. They wanted to enrich the curriculum to retain students, and help them learn about others cultures. Statewide movement for students who want a more culturally relevant and responsive curriculum.

C - Watts commented on the capability of teachers who will teach the courses and whether the apparent absence of a social justice theme. Wonders why social justice is considered controversial.

Response by Javier – social justice is a critical part of ethnic studies. There is a good reason to make it explicit but it is expressively runs through ethnic studies, as does intersectionality with gender, sexual orientation. Social Justice is a central plank of ethnic studies.

Q – was the social justice component soft-pedaled to get the resolution passed?

Q – who decides on the curriculum? A – many have offered to help. Will work with teachers and professors. Currently focusing on the logistics.

C - Fajardo – Watch out for a too conservative view of social justice.

Q - Reynolds – will each school use the same curriculum? A – to be determined.

Believes in multiple opportunities.

C – Abellsson – intersectionality, sexuality, gender and religion must be included.

Q – Train – how do gauge the depth of a subject? Will there be a rubric? A – will develop at the curriculum level. Important to develop the heart, not just the words

C- de la Rosa – There are 200 languages, 600 religions, et al in LA. everyone wants “their corner” to be prioritized. Would like to make recommendations.

C – Jacobs – recommend Human Relations, Diversity & Equity to be part of the committee.

Barrett - 2 things floating – a board member has proposed another resolution to address social justice without creating a parallel process. Wants to poll schools who have current social justice practices. Current email address - Abarr5@lausd.net

Q - Tarrant - are we digging our way into a hole we can't get out of? Can it be tweaked to give a better time frame to ensure implementation? A – avoid being too restrictive. The “resolved” section of the resolution has items that do not align. A big frustration is that

Ethnic Studies was unsuccessful in the 70s and 90s. People are passionate enough to hold people accountable.

C - de la Rosa – consider the commission as critical friends and brain power to assist you
See <http://Ethnicstudiesnow.com>

Restorative Justice – the Restorative Justice personnel are on Winter break. Will present at a future date.

Museum of Tolerance – invited the commissioners to participate in a session. Abelson is available beginning mid May. Funding is available through June for a full day. Potentially May 21st and tag the commission meeting onto the day.

Wittig Idea – have a facilitated meeting with commission and the ethnic studies implementation committee.

NOTE: May 14th meeting will be off-site at the Museum of Tolerance on May 21st.

Staff report –

Engaging Students in Peaceful Dialogues

LGBT Training of Trainers

Civic Engagement

Teen Dating Violence

Commercial Sex Trafficking of Children

Announcements:

ADL is contracting with City of Carson on bullying initiatives. Will bring in issue regarding critical issues. Interested parties should contact David Reynold, ADL.

MLK Westside Coalition is having a celebration. Gabriella Roscoe is the speaker.
January 19, 2015, 9am – noon

January 27 - El Camino Real Charter has a parent center named after Obie Slamon. Aliveda King, niece of MLK, is speaking to all students and the BSU

Friday, February 16 - El Camino Real Charter - students will have an assembly and participate in silence in solidarity of All Lives Matter

February 19 – Pacoima Boys & Girls Club, free breakfast in honor of MLK

Public Comment:

Recognize the tragedy of the killing of the cartoonists in Paris and in support of those who care about freedom of speech.

Handouts:

Draft December minutes

January agenda

Board Resolution on Ethnic Studies graduation requirement

Excerpt from state framework regarding Ethnic studies
Profile of 2013/14 Human Relations awards recipients
Ethnic Studies NOW buttons

ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ HRDE will produce a monthly report on our office's efforts and submit in advance of meeting
- ✓ De la Rosa – speak with Earl Perkins about a budget for stationery, business cards, and a stand alone website
- ✓ Judy speak for Melissa Infusino regarding outside fundraising
- ✓ Tarrant will follow up on the logo
- ✓ Tarrant will follow up with state
- ✓ Jacobs is following up with the board members regarding their donations
- ✓ Judy find out who is doing gang intervention work
- ✓ Judy ask a representative present to the Commission on Restorative Justice
- ✓ All commissioners should visit the humanrelations.lausd.net
- ✓ Invite new P-10 Specialist, Binh Nguyen to meet the commission

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