

The Orange County Board of Education met in a special meeting on the above date in its offices located at 200 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC with the following business taking place:

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Ted Triebel, Chair; Debbie Piscitelli, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Brown; Susan Hallman; Al Hartkopf; Anne Medenblik; Dennis Whitling; Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Morton, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Mike Gilbert, Public Information Officer; approximately 15 staff, members and patrons.

Chairman Triebel reviewed the purpose of the meeting – to provide the Board an opportunity to discuss and determine next steps for the Closing the Achievement Gap recommendations. Closing the Achievement Gap co-chairs reviewed seven task force recommendations; staff presented additional information related to end of course ethnicity data and elementary reading and math achievement gap ethnicity data; Board members engaged in discussion in order to determine next steps.

Board members briefly discussed test structure and gate keeper courses.

Dr. Morton, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the draft committee goals, a summary of the National Alliance of Black School Educators Conference and the Up Where We Belong Accelerating African-American Male Student Achievement Conference.

Board members held discussion on the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap Report, discussion areas including, but not limited to: insensitivity (one high school student and two adults cited areas of insensitivity for students); contents of the American History courses taught; counselor assistance for college-bound students; counselor guidance with career path choices; school diversity plans; relationship building; relational trust building between the school, the home and the community; the need to discuss with teachers curriculum inclusion of all histories to be taught; accountability issues; textbook selection and adoption; counter storytelling as a culturally relevant teaching practice; the necessity for teachers to be mindful of all cultures – each student is different and unique; the use of supplemental materials to provide different perspectives; enough textbooks available for all students; students encouraged to take AP courses that may set the student up for failure; parent involvement by assuring student is ready for school each day and by follow up to assure student is completing assignments; proper identification of students for exceptional child services; necessity for accurate baseline data; availability and active recruitment of minority teachers; teacher qualifications; the need for education on how to effectively speak to black males.

Board members agreed by general consensus for the task force committee to continue to meet in order to develop an implementation plan with specific achievement and performance benchmarks. While there may need to be some new members added to replace persons who may not be able to continue to work on the committee, all current members will be invited to continue working on the committee. Both co chairs will continue to work on the committee, however requested to see the Board's new charge before determining whether or not to continue as co-chairs. Superintendent Rhodes will meet with Associate Superintendent Dr. Denise Morton and the 2 board member committee representatives to determine the new charge for the committee, how to proceed with the task force committee meetings and possible use of committee sub-committees to efficiently expedite committee progress. Community representation will also be included.

Elizabeth Brown left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Board member discussion continued on how the reorganized committee could move forward with the assistance of staff trained and educated in specific areas, compiling budgetary implications, search for areas not captured to date, etc.

Board members agreed by consensus that Superintendent Rhodes and Dr. Morton will determine a time and place to meet with the 2 current co chairs, the 2 board member committee representatives and all of the current committee members to discuss who will serve on the reconstituted committee and how the committee will move forward.

There being no further business, Chairman Triebel adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

_____, Chair

_____, Secretary