

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2007
TROY CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM C**

I. Call to Order 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present:

Michelle Haight
Kelly Jones
Gladson Remos
Reuben Ellis
Tony Haddad
Grigore Buia
Lulu Guo, student rep
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
Helen Yang, student rep
Karen Yelder

Absent:

Mayada Fakhouri

Guests:

Cathy Francois
Sushma Shrestha

III. Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2007

Motion by Kelly Jones to approve the October 2, 2007 minutes, seconded by Michelle Haight.

Yes: Kelly, Michelle

No: Tony, Reuben, Gregore, Gladson

Motion Failed

Additions to Minutes:

Gladson said he would like on record Reuben and Tony opposed to any board action. He takes offense with his integrity being questioned.

Tony suggests closing this case. It is too much pressure on everyone.

Reuben added that the entire issue about Gladson was blown out of proportion and this board should not be forced to handle it, especially since we are a group to bring people together.

IV. Correspondence / Articles

- “Troy Celebrates Diversity with Kid Programs” from The Oakland Press, Oct. 15, 2007
- “Immigrants Seek Clout in Push to be Citizens” from The Detroit Free Press, Nov. 12, 2007

- “Community Leader Inducted into Women’s Hall of Fame (Dr. Haifa Fakhouri)” from The Oakland Press, Oct. 23, 2007
- “Workplace Diversity is Focus of Presentation” from The Detroit Free Press, Nov. 13, 2007 – www.ocado.net

V. Old Business

- a. Institute for the Healing of Racism of SE Michigan recap.

What can the EIA Board do to promote this? Should we market it within the community? Perhaps the EIA Board should commit to going through the training. It is a 20 hour commitment. Board directs Michelle to contact IHR about available dates in winter 2008. We might consider adding school leaders/administration to also participate.

- b. Troy Daze EthniCity

Kelly has four new groups interested in 2008 EthniCity.

Suggestions discussed again. Coordinate student volunteer hours better. Need more Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday morning through mid afternoon and Saturday evening. Rules and Guidelines sent with contract. Booth fee non-refundable. Encourage Troy Daze Board to work with EIA Board about booth fee. Bring back passports.

- c. Bridging the Racial Divide - No Scheduled Date

- d. Grant Info - postponed

VI. New Business

- a. Troy School District Update

Michelle and Karen met on Nov. 1, 2007 with new Athens principal Lara Dixon and Assistant Principal Joe Duda to give them info on EIA Board. They shared their concerns about the lack of ethnic teachers. Lara and Joe shared they are recruiting at Wayne State and EMU for ethnic teachers.

Professional Development Series, “Educating Every Child.” Working with students who are different than we are. Troy Athens had their largest turnout at the Oct. 25th session. There are four sessions, 4-7 pm. Oct 25 – Demographics. Who are the students? Jan 8 – Understanding Ourselves. March 13 – Realizing our Perceptions. May 15 – Clarifying our Next Steps. Where do we go from here to build a district that maximizes the social, emotional and academic growth of each student? Teachers volunteer to attend these professional development series.

Are the Arab Chaldeans included in the demographics listed? (White, Asian, African-American) Karen will check with Tim McAvoy.

Cultural Newsletter - Michelle sends out to the schools. It is on the Athens Web site. Also sent with Troy School District e-mail newsletter to parents. Most of our schools have it linked to their individual home page. Detroit Country Day teacher asked Michelle if she’d do it for their school.

Parent Advisory Group - Karen suggested to principals to form a Parent Advisory Group to help with student issues. Lara would rather not have this layer – she feels they have a good relationship with admin, teachers and students.

Other Issues - Karen and Michelle left the meeting feeling very good about our Troy Administration. Inclusion is very important to our schools. They would like to get involved with LINC again or other programs encouraging student leadership. They appreciate this board as a resource for the Troy School District. Parent and community involvement are important and our school district is receptive to this involvement.

Helen said she hasn't heard about racial problems. Last year there were fights between Chaldean kids but nothing like that this year. Board asks Lulu and Helen's input for diversity issues. Lulu – There are different groups but kids do come together outside of those groups. Students in AP classes might hang out together regardless of race.

There is an ethnic club at Athens High. Karen will make contact with the teacher liaison. First African-American was hired as a substitute teacher at Athens High.

Board asks our student reps to bring us more info from their fellow students about harmony in the schools and comments about diversity. Helen feels students are very harmonious at Troy High. They will bring updates.

b. 2008 Projects and Assignments.

Troy School District – Continue to be involved and form a solid relationship and friendship. Continue to offer them information we've gathered related to diversity training and inclusion.

Community Kaleidoscope – Jan. 27, 2008 from 12-4 pm. Should the EIA Board have a table at this event? Motion by Michelle, seconded by Tony to have a table at Kaleidoscope. Approved unanimously. This board has been promoted in the Troy Today.

MLK Celebration – Karen encourages the board to attend MLK Celebration of freedom on Jan. 21, 2008.

Additional Projects? – Any projects the board would like to focus on between Jan & Sept. besides IHR training? Kelly suggests contacting other cities about what they do. Each member can outreach to other communities and find out what they offer. This will be discussed at the January Meeting.

Noel Night – Michelle reminded everyone about Noel Night in Detroit on Sat. Dec. 1, 5 - 9 pm

Interfaith Group – Interfaith Group will take place on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 7 pm at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Adams North of Long Lake, Thanksgiving Celebration.

VII. Staff Report

- a. Memo about recommendation for Cathy Francois to replace Anju Brodbine will be on Nov. 19 Council agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Karen to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm
Meeting adjourned.

Michelle Haight, EIAB Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary