

**SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
CURRICULUM
JANUARY 20, 2010**

PRESENT: Dr. Fletcher, Mrs. Ussach, Mr. Winn (advisor)

ABSENT: Ms. Pollock

Mrs. Ussach called the meeting to order at 5:59 P.M.

Mrs. Ussach recognized Campbell School Principal Lisa Andrade and Winslow School Principal Paula Bailey and asked them to report on the Welcoming Schools curriculum that their task force was recommending for the current school year.

Mrs. Andrade explained that the curriculum had been chosen and developed over the course of many meetings by a task force of administrators, parents, and teachers from each of the three schools in addition to community members; including members of the faith community.

Mrs. Andrade explained that each item in the curriculum was discussed by the group and the curriculum represents the final product. Each school then held a “family night” as a kick-off event. Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Andrade described the family nights held at their schools and described them as great successes. Mrs. Bailey noted that the theme was that a family is love and caring, no matter who you live with.

Mrs. Ussach complimented the principals on their work and stated that it is good that people realize that families are made up of different members. Mrs. Ussach then asked Rev. Lima of the faith community if he had anything that he’d like to add.

Rev. Lima explained that he was attending in the place of two members of the faith community – Rev. Rick Rodriguez and Fr. Rick Wilson – who participated on the task force but were unavailable for this meeting. Rev. Lima stated that Rev. Rodriguez and Fr. Wilson felt well received by many on the task force and expressed the view that their voices had been heard and respected by the committee as a whole. He stated that he saw few major concerns with the curriculum, and felt that the committee as a whole supports the faith community’s stance that each child must be respected and that bullying must not be tolerated. One area of concern expressed by Rev. Lima was the apparent focus of the curriculum toward gender. He asked if areas such as bullying due to race or ethnicity were being addressed as these are two of the most common areas of bullying that he sees in New Bedford.

Mrs. Andrade and Mrs. Bailey described the current year's focus on family and gender as parts of the whole program; noting that the other components had been approved by the sub-committee the year before.

Mrs. Ussach commented that the problem may be that the curriculum being presented is to be blended into the curriculum as a whole, and the rest of the curriculum was not available for review at this meeting.

Rev. Lima asked if he could get a copy of the curriculum that had been approved the previous year to answer the question of whether the other areas of concern are addressed.

Dr. Fletcher made a motion that the item be tabled until the next curriculum sub-committee meeting, so that Mrs. Pollock could be in attendance and the entire curriculum could be available for review. Mrs. Ussach seconded the motion and suggested that meetings could take place during the interim.

The Rev. Lima – stating that he wanted to be clear - reiterated that his questions did not lessen his great respect for the outstanding work done by Principals Andrade, Bailey, and Riley.

Mrs. Andrade stated that the committee will present all of the previously approved curriculum, along with this year's curriculum labeled DRAFT" for the next meeting on March 17th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.