

Minutes

Student Assignment Advisory Committee

October 16, 2001

Persons Present: Roia Ferrazares, Nancy Riddle, Lee Berry, Irving Phillips, Noreen Axelson, Sheila ORourke, Bernadette Cormier, Julie Guthman and Francisco Martinez.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. The minutes from October 9, 2001, need to reflect the following changes; 1) that the magnet school geographical bands plan has not been used to assign students and 2) that the *Connerly* case may affect the controlled-choice assignment program.

Committee members were informed that the BAHS multi-purpose room will not be available for the Committee on November 6th and 20th. The Committee will have to meet at the District's Administrative Annex (1835 Allston Way).

In light of the *Connerly* case, the Committee discussed the Committee's role. Some members suggested that the Committee's role might be much more limited than a year ago. The Committee, however, can still advise and affect the District's policy decisions. The Committee discussed whether it was their job to develop an alternative student assignment plan or whether district staff needs to develop such plan.

It was discussed that using race as criterion for student assignments may be difficult to defend but diversity is not. The goal is to maintain schools that are not racially isolated. Members commented that the Committee's charge might need to be updated.

The Committee discussed that they should create a belief statement about what an alternative assignment plan should include.

Outside experts (i.e. Gary Orfield, Jerome Karabel, Troy Duster, Pedro Nogera) might be able to provide assistance to the Committee. What is the likelihood that these individuals might come to Berkeley? Would they be able to help devise an equitable assignment system that excludes race?

The Committee requested that we provide census information about single/multiple dwellings, Latino and Asian populations, '90 and '00 census racial demographics, maps depicting student residency for each school, parent education and test scores.

Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.