

**Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District  
Diversity Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2007**

**Members in Attendance:**

Phil Burrows, Deputy Superintendent  
Eileen Hayes, District Resident and HFL Middle School Teacher  
Mary McNamara, Secondary Coordinator for Teaching and Learning  
Dick Rasmussen, President of HF-L Board of Education  
Christopher Shashaty, District Resident

- Phil Burrows opened the meeting by sharing the minutes from the last meeting. No corrections were noted.
- Michelle Kavanaugh, Superintendent of Schools sent her regrets for not being able to attend. Phil Burrows presented the Superintendent's update. The District received a grant from Five Star Bank to support the Community Reads project. The book, The Tale of Despereaux, has a diversity theme. Dr. Kavanaugh has been invited to join the Advisory Board for the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program. The Rochester City School District has informed us that the earliest possible date for joining Urban-Suburban would be for the 2008 – 09 school year because of difficulties arranging transportation. Both Lima Primary and Middle School have established City school connections. The Middle School Foreign Language Club sponsored a book drive to benefit School #36. Middle School is also beginning to launch a People-to-People Partner School Relationship. The Enriched Development Kindergarten model received strong support for adding a foreign language component based on survey responses from preschool parents. In addition, enthusiastic support was noted for preschool children being exposed to diversity through the arts. Mandarin Chinese will be provided through MCC and Community Education during the Winter Session. The Strategic Plan theme of diversity, global awareness and world languages is evident in the final document thanks to the input of the Committee and the Board of Education.
- Mary McNamara provided updates on events and programs throughout the District. Survivors of the "Lost Boys of Sudan" presented to both the Middle School and High Schools. After the large group presentations, small groups of students in both building shared lunch and had follow up discussions with the speakers. Mary shared student essays about the presentation. February 12 is the Kick-Off for Wellness Week. This event will be open to the community. A variety of family focused activities and health care information will be available. The Middle School and High School Studio Art classes will be participating in the Memory Project. Art Teachers, Bonnie Foster and Kelly Recktenwald have made arrangements for their students to create original portraits for children living in orphanages around the world. The purpose of the portraits is to provide the orphans with a special keepsake of their youth. Our students will send a short note to each child also. A musical selection that will be performed by the Middle School chorus was shared. Music teacher, Barb Salter, is building upon the "Lost Boys" presentation by introducing the students to the *Sounds of a Better World Project*. The selection is from a group of songs focusing on the adverse conditions facing children throughout the world.
- Phil Burrows presented an overview of the development of the Strategic Plan. The District's commitment to diversity was highlighted in the Foundation Commitments. The new plan emphasizes the mastery of languages other than English. A discussion of the trends in languages study for international business followed.
- An open-ended brainstorm session identified ideas for future work for the Committee. It was suggested that we invite students to a panel discussion on what we they are seeing or experiencing as a follow up to the Task Force's work. Continued investigation of the IB Program and the development of Sister School relationship were encouraged. A review of the Diversity Committee's Planning Guide was recommended for an up coming meeting. It was noted that the work of this Committee, the recognition of the importance of including diversity, has had an impact of the Board of Education and the development of the Strategic Intentions.