

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**April 6, 2011**

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Esther Griffin, Jamila Kisses, John Cornelius, Karen Redington, Maria Moreno, Rob Solomon, Daniel Brown, Alternate Commissioner Blair Thomas, and Staff Liaison Bob Crocker

Absent: Commissioner Alton Harvey; Alternate Commissioner Heminder Singh

Tresa Cavanaugh was introduced as the Human Rights Advisory Commission incoming Alternate Commissioner

Minutes of the March 2, 2011, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.

Communications from the City Liaison: None

Action items for Staff Liaison: Prepare letters for First Place, Runner-ups and all other students who entered into the CEC; make note of date change for play in Beaverton @ the City Library to May 25: "Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Well Being: The Story of Lillian Wald".

No hearings

Guest: Jerry Colonna, Beaverton School District Superintendent, gave the committee an update on BSD efforts for creating a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment. Mr. Colonna spoke at the November 2010 Human Rights Advisory Commission monthly meeting. Mr. Colonna reported that members of the Superintendent's Council and the School Board are voluntarily participating in a series of trainings, which began January 2011. A handout was given to the audience and the Commissioners regarding the training, learning targets, LGBT Staff and Parents Panel, and trainings. There was mention that Bus Driving Training is taking place to increase the bus drivers' cultural competency. 60% of students ride a bus to/from school each day and there are 235 buses on the road.

A brief discussion about this year's District Survey, which is sent out to faculty, parent and students, regarding new questions directly relating to LGBTQ. Jerry Colonna mentioned these questions will help the District identify the current climate for the LGBTQ students and staff and will give the schools a guide for next steps.

There was a brief question and answer session with Mr. Colonna. The Commissioners voiced their support for the actions the School District is taking, and a suggestion was made to invite the new Beaverton School District Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Rose in, once the new school year starts.

Committee Reports

Creative Expression Contest (CEC) voting took place. Commissioner Alton Harvey was not present; Alternate Commissioner Blair Thomas had the ability to vote on the entries. Commissioner Thomas did not vote because of a conflict of interest.

**Grade School Winners:**

First Place: Mehreen Kruger's Class/We Pledge/Sexton Mountain Elementary

Runner-up: Anna Cloud Russell/Children's Rights/Vose Elementary

Runner-up: Anne Bordeerat/Pulling Together/Raleigh Hills Elementary

Runner-up: Illiana Porteur/Free Expression/Arco Iris Spanish Immersion

**Middle School Winners:**

First Place: Kyla D'Sa/The Corner/ISB

Runner-up: Dana Hicks/Free Others...Free Yourself/Rachel Carson Middle School

Runner-up: Arman Talkar/A World of Revolution/Summa Academy South

Runner-up: Abha Joshi/Then and Now, the World hasn't changed/ISB

Guest: Mr. Ali Houdroge, from the Islamic Center of Portland, and Mr. Ahmed Shahriar, from Bilal Mosque, spoke to the Human Rights Advisory Commission and audience. The dialogue was well received and there were many questions from the audience.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM. Agenda items that were not addressed at this meeting will be on next month's agenda. Commissioner Solomon allowed extra time for audience members to ask Guest Speakers additional questions.