



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

Filipino Hall
211 West 2nd Street, Wapato, WA 98951
Saturday, June 18, 2016

Regular Business

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ty Tufono, Lisa Dickinson, Zer Vue, Ka`imi Sinclair, Tam Dinh, Lakshmi Gaur, Mohan Gurung, Tashi Khamshitsang, Didi Cabusao, Lynette Finau

Commissioners Absent: Darren Pen, Lori Wada

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Coordinator, Brianne Ramos

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made at 11:02 a.m. by Commissioner Cabusao to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Khamshitsang. With no further changes, the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2016 MINUTES

Motion was made at 11:04 a.m. by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the March 19, 2016 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Vue. With no further changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

WAPATO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maria Batarao, Principal, Camas Elementary

Shannon Torres, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, Wapato School District

Programs and Curriculum that Promote Diversity and Other Cultures

- New curriculum for preschool-5th grade that teaches them to learn through reading context
 - Curriculum is based off of Cultural Literacy by E.D. Hirsch
 - Learning method is focused on listening and visuals
 - New curriculum includes a section on Early Asian Civilizations
- Celebrates diversity through the visibility of other cultures
 - Cultural Unity Fair – held annually in March

STEM, Special Education, Challenge (formerly Gifted)

- Wapato School District offers engineering courses (Project Lead the Way)

Q&A

Question: Are parents involved in the cultural celebrations?

Yes, the district communicates with families and parents are welcome to join and participate in the celebrations.

Question: Regarding the STEM program, are ELL students encouraged to participate? How are you reaching them?

In the Wapato School District, ELL students are more successful in STEM classes because it is more hands on and visual.

Question: Have you thought about incorporating curriculum on Southeast Asians? Are there opportunities available for parents to advocate for additions to the curriculum?

Yes, there are potential opportunities for that in middle or high school curriculum. There are different policies for adding curriculum, and we would want to make sure that we are following the correct policy.

Question: How do you recruit your teachers? What is the breakdown of ethnicities in your district?

Don't know exact data, but we have some Filipino, Native American, and Hispanic faculty and staff. WSD is currently experiencing a shortage of teachers and are looking at various routes to recruit teachers.

Comment: CAPAA is available to help the school district with resources and connecting with communities.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Rey Pascua, Former CAPAA Commissioner

- Presents Governor and Presidential proclamations for Filipino American History Month each year
- Brought up concerns about Wapato School District's decision to not have a formal English Language Learner program and how it may impact students in the long run.
- Recognition to Director Michael Itti for support in securing Proclamation for Filipino American History Month
- Announcement of 65th anniversary event in Wapato to celebrate the founding of Filipino Hall in 1952 (March 19, 2017)
- Critical issues – lack of farmworker housing, shortages of teachers, farmworkers, and nurses in the Yakima Valley

Paul Tabayoyon, APIC, FAPAGOW

- Concerns about the Student of Color Conference (SOCC) not presenting accurate reflections of API data
 - Encourage SOCC API students to work together and encourage diversity in the workshops
- Did an independent survey of the Yakima and Wapato school districts to see the process of enrolling students in school – concerned about the inconsistencies of the process between various schools within a school district
 - Proposed that each school should send the same information to families of students enrolling in school

Dori Baker, FACYV, APIC Yakima, FANHS Yakama Chapter

- SB 6245 –Including mandatory testing of children’s eyesight in school
 - Impacts special education students who might have learning issues that are attributed to limited vision
- Filipino American National Historical Society
 - Documenting the stories of Vietnam veterans, leaving a legacy for relatives and other API communities in the Yakima Valley
 - Planning an event to honor all API veterans in the Yakima Valley
 - Making plans to collect data and stories of cannery families
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
 - Goal is to create an API identity for civic engagement in the Yakima Valley through data disaggregation of voter registrations
 - Found out that many Filipino Americans were registered as Latino voters
 - Discovered and fixed over 100 registered voter registrations to reflect their correct ethnic identity
 - Encouraging more civic engagement at the local and state level
 - Wanting to do phone banking in various API languages to encourage civic engagement

Carrie Pascua, Board of Trustees, Mabuhay Foundation

- Expressed welcome and warm wishes to Commission
- Bringing awareness to mental health, behavioral health, and chemical dependency
- Continuing to advocate for equitable access to health and services
- Mabuhay Foundation has plans to give out scholarships to students in the Yakima Valley

Ruvine Jimenez, League of Education Voters

- Role is to connect with different populations in the Yakima Valley as a community organizer
- Currently outreaching to business owners in the area – discovered there is a disconnect between local business owners and access to state government
- Encourage the Commission to continue with outreach efforts in the Yakima Valley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission will have two new members joining the Commission starting on July 1.

PREVALENCE OF DIABETES AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Commissioner Didi Cabusao

- Background of diabetes
 - Types of diabetes
 - Risk factors
- AAPIs are at a higher risk of having diabetes due to genetics, environmental factors, industrialization of Asian countries, and a higher prevalence of risk factors
- Preventing complications
 - Self-management
 - Checking blood glucose levels at least twice a year
 - Healthy diet and exercise

POLICY MANUAL UPDATES

Chapter 85, SAAM 85.20, RCW 39.26.125

- Updating CAPAA's Administrative Policies to comply with state policies
 - Chapter 85: Accounting – Expenditure, Expense, and Disbursements
 - SAAM 85.20: Receipting and Receivables
 - RCW 39.26.125: Direct Buy

Chair Tufono made a motion to adopt Chapter 85, SAAM 85.20 and RCW 39.26.125 into the Commission's Administrative Policies and was seconded by Commissioner Khamshitsang. Vice Chair Dickinson abstained due to lack of time to review the additions. With no further discussion, the motion was approved.

ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Director Itti provided a summary of the progress of the Commission and its current work and opportunities to support achieving the strategic plan.

COMMITTEE REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Education Committee

- Commissioners Vue and Finau are working with Dr. Holly Barker at the Burke Museum to connect community members with Hmong and Tongan objects in the museum's collections. During each visit, Commissioners Vue and Finau bring in community members to view the collections, share knowledge of cultural practices and history, and educate the Burke Museum about the importance of each object.

Q&A

Question (from community member): How do you achieve your strategic plan?

The Commission has objectives and goals in the areas of economic development, education, and health that support our strategic plan. We also work closely with community members to improve outcomes for Asian Pacific Americans.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Itti provided the Director's Report overview including an update on the Commission's financial report, legislative session, agency outreach, community events, and issue areas. View the full report here: <http://capaa.wa.gov/executive-directors-report-for-june-18-2016/>.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Gaur to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Pen with no further discussion and unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by Brianne Ramos.