

Equity Task Force Committee Meeting
August 18, 2020-2:00 p.m.
Minutes

The meeting began at approximately 2:05.

After an introduction from Dr. Henderson, the group heard reports from the sub committees listed below

Staff Training Sub-Committee

Dr. Smith shared that the staff training sub-committee has developed some draft goals addressing the areas of concern as outlined in the survey findings. The group is exploring the possibility of the Empower grant (available through the State of IL). They will also be consulting again with Dr. Hernandez at SIUE to talk about what we can reasonably do in the area of staff development during this very restrictive time. In addition, the group plans to start a book study.

Student Curriculum Sub-Committee

Ms. Harris shared information from the student curriculum sub-committee. The group discussed the expansion of the Diversity Club at both middle schools and the high school. The clubs goals are to:

- Raise awareness for the various populations that exist in our school and that should be supported and respected.
- Enhance the school climate by ensuring that all students are accepted and can have a place to be themselves.
- Provide peer to peer support and function as a healing space for students facing any adversity in their lives.
- Learn about other cultures and communities in an effort to enhance empathy
- Promote ways for other students to take action to create an inclusive school climate

It was discussed that the leaders of this group should correspond with the leaders of the Black Student Union at the high school to ensure that the groups are aware of what each other are doing and to work together since many of the goals are similar.

Ms. Fox shared information regarding the social studies curriculum study that is ongoing this year.

Data and Communications Sub-Committee

Ms. Foley shared that the data & communications sub-committee has convened twice monthly since early June. Listening Circle data was compiled and released at the July 20 Board of Education meeting, and was made available to the public via the District 7 website. The committee has continued to share ideas for strengthening communication measures, and recommends a more robust electronic platform be developed and utilized to support this effort to disseminate information to the public. In effort to support bilateral communication, the committee continues to explore the creation of a venue to receive feedback from the public as well.

Mission Statement

It was discussed that sub-committees will work on the unified mission statement at their next meeting to help guide us moving forward. Additional information regarding mission statements will be shared with sub-committee administrative leaders before the next meetings.

Other Topics

The District Visitor Policy was discussed and will be evaluated to ensure that consistency is taking place throughout the buildings. It was discussed that the policy needs to be consistent throughout all schools and well communicated to parents and the rest of the community.

Next Meetings

Sub-group committee leaders will survey their groups to determine the date and time for next meetings in the coming weeks. The next full meeting of the Equity Task Force will be in mid to late October with the final date to be set by the end of September.