

## **Equity Task Force Meeting October 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting began at approximately 5:03 PM.

### **Mission Statement Update**

Dr. Henderson displayed an updated version of the group's mission statement.

### **Sub Committee Reports**

#### **Student Curriculum Sub-Committee**

Dr. Duncan shared information regarding the establishment of the EDUCATE diversity club which is now active at Lincoln MS, Liberty MS, and EHS. Weekly meeting and book studies are activities that are taking place as a part of this club. Social studies curriculum has begun and is completing their work with an equity lens. In addition, language arts is working on ensuring that there are more diverse authors as part of the curriculum. Currently, there is discussion of potentially adding two additional high school courses beginning in the 2021-22 school year.

#### **Staff training Sub-Committee**

Dr. Smith shared information regarding professional development that had occurred with teachers. In addition, Dr. Smith shared the importance of completing an internal audit of disciplinary data.

Ms. Fox shared additional information regarding the October 9<sup>th</sup> Equity Workshop. Teacher leaders have emerged and have begun helping administration to discuss future equity trainings for staff.

#### **Data and Communications Sub Committee**

Mr. McLaughlin shared information regarding the Equity Task Force website. While in its early stages, the website will be a place for task force updates that will include tools for all stakeholder groups. In addition, it will be a place that can house a location for communication that will allow students/parents to report issues.

Dr. Moody discussed the importance of having a place where students/parents are able to report issues. Discussion was held regarding who could manage these issues as they came in and how responses and feedback could be given.

Ms. Mefford shared information regarding the idea of a “pledge” that would be a declaration of intent for all stakeholders within District 7. A website with an example pledge from Australia was shared.

Mr. Lu shared the opinion of the alumni group that the District should move quickly to hire an Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Coordinator. It is important that someone at the District level have their job dedicated to this cause.

Dr. Henderson shared that the District is working on a job description for such a position and that this position could positively affect curriculum, human resources, and community relations. He shared that he would discuss this position with the Board of Education at the next meeting.

### **Next Steps—Other Topics**

Dr. Henderson shared that the District plans to make progress in the following areas in the coming weeks:

- Social Studies Curriculum
- Informing the Board of Education of Equity Task Force goals and short term recommendations

Dr. Moody shared information regarding the 2020 Learning Forward website and upcoming December Annual Conference. The website for Learning Forward was shared.

Dr. Henderson shared that the next evolution of the Equity Task Force is as an advisory board. He will send out requests to all members to see who is interested in continuing on in this capacity.

The meeting closed at approximately 6:07 PM.