



USD 497 NEWS

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Superintendent Appoints Community Members to Equity Council

Superintendent Rick Doll announces the selection of 15 community members to serve on the Lawrence Public Schools' Equity Council. The district initiated a membership drive in June to invite applications; 27 individuals applied.

The Lawrence Board of Education originally organized the Equity Council, comprised of school board members, district staff, high school students and community representatives, in January of 1986. It serves in an advisory capacity to the board. This year, the Council will provide feedback on: district goals, including closing achievement gaps and improving graduation rates; planning by the Lawrence Elementary School Facility Vision Task Force; and "Re-Designing for Student Success: Planning for 6-8 Middle Schools and Four-Year High Schools."

Returning Equity Council members to serve one-year terms are:

- Willie Amison, KU Education Administration Project Coordinator
- Diane Douglas, KU Human Resources Director
- Mary Ann Graham, KU Card Center Systems Administrator
- Bessie Walker, APS Program Manager

New Council members to serve two-year terms are:

- Kelli Bates, Lawrence Parent and Former Educator
- Emmanuel Birdling, KU African/African American Studies Program Assistant
- Annette Dabney, Lawrence Parent & Speech & Language Pathologist
- Diane Mielke, KU Advising Center Academic Advisor & Small Business Owner
- Carrie Mershon, K-State Research & Extension Educational Researcher/Nutrition Educator
- Jennifer Ng, KU School of Education Associate Professor
- Lynne Renick, Southwest Junior High English Teacher

High school student members to serve one-year terms are:

- Devante Green, Free State High student
- Erin Ice, Free State High student
- J'Qui Audena, Lawrence High student
- Hanna Hall, Lawrence High student

School Board President Rich Minder appointed board members Bob Byers and Marlene Merrill to serve on the Council. Administrative representatives to the Council are: Lesa Frantz, elementary principal representative, Pinckney; Will Fernandez, junior high principal representative, South Junior High; Felton Avery, Lawrence High assistant principal; Ted Berard, Free State High associate principal; Bob Arevalo, division director of human resources; and Kim Bodensteiner, chief academic officer.

The Equity Council is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The first meeting is Wednesday, August 18, at the Lawrence Virtual School in the Centennial Learning Center.

Contact: Kim Bodensteiner, 785/832-5000.