

JOINT
Equity Advisory Council / Parents of Color Advisory
MINUTES
August 11, 2020
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Members Present (EAC)

Chair:

EAC Members: Leona Antoine, Gina Byrd-Stadler, Lindsay Buck, Annette Dabney, Traci Masenthin, Randy Masten, Lois Orth-Lopes, Lea Roselyn, John Rury, Gary Schmidt, Sookyung Shin, Sylvia Trevino,
School Board Member: Erica Hill and Paula Smith

Members Present (POC)

Chair: Kay Emerson

POCAT Members: Kim Barbee, Naomi Danso, Cassie Eanes-Brown, Kim Fuller, Anthony Lang, Adrineh Mehdikhani, Njeri Shomari, Jose Trujillo
School Board Member: Carole Cadue –Blackwood and Melissa Johnson

District Administrative Staff: David Cunningham, Kevin Harrell, Mark Preut, Jayci Roberson, and Dr. Anna Stubblefield

District Staff: Danica Moore

I. Welcome/Check In – Dr. Stubblefield

Dr. Stubblefield opened the meeting by thanking everyone for participating.

II. District Overview- Reopening of Schools –

Dr. Stubblefield shared about the board meeting last night on 8/10/2020. The district shared remote learning guides with staff and families, as well as providing draft information about future hybrid and in-person plans on our district website.

USD 497 also sent surveys to staff and families. Staff will indicate whether they prefer to teach only those students learning remotely or return to in-person instruction in a future hybrid model. In this survey, they will also provide information about their family circumstances to help inform Douglas County's Education Unified Command (EUC) about community childcare needs.

It is understood that we will need to provide accommodations for staff. We are trying to honor staff preferences however, student enrollment has driven what staffing looks like in the past and now. We are working collaboratively with LEA to make sure we are taking care of staff.

Ongoing information regarding our Re-Opening Plan is available at its website at www.usd497.org/TogetherAgain

Please bear in mind, information is changing daily and we must pivot and shift as needed.

III. Douglas County's Education Unified Command

Dr. Stubblefield and David Cunningham provided information on Unified Command. This group meets 2x week (Monday and Thursday).

Douglas County's Unified Command structure to lead a comprehensive COVID-19 pandemic response, local government, health, education and business leaders will partner to provide a coordinated reopening and response strategy among education institutions. The goals: protect students, staff, and faculty; reduce community impacts; and, minimize disease spread. Leaders of Douglas County, City of Lawrence, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, LMH Health, University of Kansas, Lawrence Public Schools and The Chamber will participate.

The Education UC will be led by Sarah Plinsky, Douglas County administrator; Craig Owens, City of Lawrence manager; Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health director; Russ Johnson, LMH Health CEO and president; Douglas Girod, KU chancellor; Anthony Lewis, Lawrence Public Schools superintendent; and Bonnie Lowe, The Chamber president and CEO.

The Education Unified Command's initial objectives include to:

- Identify and coordinate opening dates
- Ensure consistent and timely public information and develop a shared community understanding
- Provide for critical workforce, to include childcare, and ensure continuity of operations
- Create a uniform, minimum set of reopening standards including PPE, sanitation, movement, and other safety considerations
- Establish unified testing capabilities and protocols
- Establish common protocols for outbreak response and closures
- Develop plans and secure resources to effectively execute the uniform, minimum standards

For additional information about COVID-19 in Douglas County, visit: douglascountyks.org/coronavirus

IV. Title IX

David Cunningham shared information regarding the Department of Education Regulations regarding Sexual Harassment. (Federal regulation) It redefines sexual harassment and the rigorous procedures related to sexual harassment. These revisions go into effect 8/14.

In summary, no longer can sexual harassment be handled informally. Individual must file formal complaint. After an investigation, there will be a formal resolution/action that is subject to appeal. If there is no filing of formal complaint, the issue will not be investigated (by law) and as such, the issue is closed.

Title IX Coordinator- currently David Cunningham. District will be reviewing this role and determining if there needs to be additional people to handle these complaints.

Mr. Cunningham shared that the district prohibits discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Regardless of outcomes- Human Resources will provide supportive measures/resources to all parties as deemed necessary.

Mr. Cunningham shared that parents/community members should reach out to with their concerns, discontent/disagreement with this policy to their local Congressman and/or & Senator(s).

V. Miscellaneous-

- In regards to truancy issues, we will rely on guidance from state. Kevin Harrell shared there is an upcoming meeting on Sept 1st - Truancy Roundtable. The hope is that in September more information will be available to all involved regarding how the school year may look and how the truancy programs may work to accommodate truancy during the COVID climate. More information will be forthcoming about how to access the September 1, 2020, meeting.
 - Dr. Stubblefield explained that we will be using the 1st week of school to reach out to families to determine needs or barriers and we will work with families. We are aware that this is an issue (Lack attendance from simply not attending to WIFI/internet issues) but we are planning to work/connect with families to make sure we are providing the support as needed.
- There was a discussion regarding widening of the achievement gaps and if the district gathered any data from the spring? Dr. Stubblefield explained that we did not access our students during the shutdown in the spring. We will be assessing/evaluating in the fall to see where our students are. We are looking at offering summer school next summer in grades K-8 (TBD) to address any possible learning gaps.
- There was a request about families learning more about the district plans to make use of CARES funding for district need? Approximately 2.9 million has been requested by USD 497. Board Member Carole Cadue-Blackwood provided the link during the chat. Below is a link to the pdf document from the 8/5/2020 meeting www.douglascountyks.civicweb.net
 - [Review of Douglas County's CARES Act Round 1 Draft Reimbursements and Direct Aid Plan - Pdf](#) (Go to page 341)
- Our Sept/Oct meeting-will have more info related to Equity policy

Next Meeting: September 1st