

Equity Advisory Council / Parents of Color Advisory
MINUTES
December 1, 2020
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Members Present (EAC)

Chair: Jessica Beeson

EAC Members: Leona Antoine, Lindsay Buck, Beth Clark, Annette Dabney, Tricia Masenthin, Randy Masten, Lois Orth-Lopes, Lea Roselyn, John Rury, Chris Tilden, Sylvia Trevino,

Members Present (POC)

Chair: Kay Emerson

POCAT Members: Kim Barbee, Cassie Eanes-Brown, Adrineh Mehdikhani, Njeri Shomari

District Administrative Staff: David Cunningham, Bill DeWitt, Jeff Harkin, Kevin Harrell, Mark Preut, Jayci Roberson, Dr. Anna Stubblefield, and Leah Wisdom

I. Welcome/Check In – Dr. Stubblefield

Dr. Stubblefield opened the meeting by thanking everyone for participating and being flexible with regard to cancelling the last meeting, due to it being on Election Day.

II. SRO Review Committee Update –

This review committee had its first meeting on November 30. The group engaged in conversation regarding the previous survey sent to the community including (but not limited to) –

- Not being satisfied with previous survey that was distributed regarding SRO's
 - Lack of clarity between the role of School Resource Officer (SRO) and Security Guard
 - Uncertainty regarding who was who (SRO vs Security Guard)
 - Lack of parental input
- Engaging parents via Survey vs Thought Exchange
- Dr. Stubblefield shared that due to previously scheduled surveys and items needing parental attention (i.e. High School Enrollment, ECAP, etc.), she did not feel anything regarding SRO's would go out until Spring

The group agreed that the main question that we are trying to answer is 'Do we want SRO's in schools?'. The group will review the previous surveys and submit questions they would like to ask for discussion at the next meeting (TBD).

III. District COVID-19 Advisory Committee Update

The objective of this committee is to provide feedback on administrative recommendations and provide perspectives on proposed practices and protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This group consists of –

- Superintendent
- School Board Members
- District Administrators (representing Special Education, Nursing, and Human Resources)
- Teachers from each educational levels (including special education)
- Special Education para educators
- Facilities & Operations representative
- Principals from each educational level
- Students (from both high schools)
- Representatives from the boards advisory committees/councils (EAC, POC, DSC)
- Site Council representatives from each educational level
- Representatives from Lawrence Douglas County Public Health
- Architecture/Engineering/Facilities Community representative.

(The meetings are in close proximity (day) to the school board meetings.)

Jessica Beeson and Kay Emerson, our Chairs of ESC and POC respectively, graciously agreed to participate on this committee. They shared that the committee has met four times thus far (starting in October). The group meets twice a month. The group has spent a lot of time and discussion on understanding the gating criteria, winter sports/activities, Thought Exchange (and how to use it to engage the community) and COVID testing.

Data Report-Enrollment/Budget

At the November 9, 2020 board meeting, Kathy Johnson, Executive Director of Finance provided a budget update. She reviewed the 2019-20 enrollment report and the pre COVID projections for 2020-21 from RSP & Associates.

Dr. Stubblefield reiterated that due to our decreased enrollment, our budget would be negatively impacted for the current year and next. The district currently has an estimated deficit of \$1 million dollars. USD 497 is not alone in this situation; the majority of school districts are facing similar situations.

Our Budget and Program Evaluation Committee (BPEC), Boundary Committee, and Fringe Benefit Committee will meet to look for efficiencies and ways to address where/how to make up this deficit.

Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center-ECAP Overview-

Dr. Stubblefield reminded the committees that the purpose of the Equity Context Analysis Process (ECAP) is to identify areas of strengths and priorities for improvement. It will provide an overview of the extent to which aspects of educational equity are evident in LPS, identify areas that may be opportunities for growth related to advancing educational equity, and support equity-oriented strategic planning efforts, as well as ongoing monitoring and assessment activities related to promoting educational equity. It is a way to analysis our equity in action. It will compile and review layers of data and then provide a root cause for the situation.

- The ECAP training session was on 11/17 and 11/18. Our advisory groups (EAC and POC) were invited to participate on Day 1 only (11/17)
- As we continue planning, organizing and completing the ECAP process, our next steps (district) include-
 - Defining timeline of data collection

- Reviewing proposed schools
- Identifying classrooms
- Scheduling classroom observations and Post Interviews
- Schedule the meaning-making session

We will keep the committees updated.

Equity Policy (Draft)-

- David Cunningham, Executive Director of Human Resources, shared the draft of this policy with the group for their thoughts and feedback. The group engaged in discussion regarding –
 - Wanting a link/connection from Policy to see where/how we are working to make it a reality
 - This is addressed in the Strategic Plan
 - Equity in Action is a document that Leah Wisdom is developing that she plans to share with the board that shows alignment
 - Where is the accountability for change?
 - Wanting more focus on the Achievement Gap
 - Favorable of the document (more specific than in the past)
- Mr. Cunningham thanked the group for the discussion and requested that individuals complete the google form distributed asking for feedback. The deadline was extended to Friday, Dec. 11th
- The goal is to present at the January board meeting for first reading in order to be adopted/approved at the February meeting (after feedback/revisions).

Miscellaneous-

- Dr. Stubblefield shared that Kelly Jones, Board President, has called a special meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss the School Reopening Guidelines.
- Boundary Advisory Committee Applications for new members closed on Nov. 25. The goal is to have the first meeting at the beginning of the year.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2021