

Equity Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018

Members Present

Co-Chairs: Randy Masten, Annette Dabney, Lois Orth-Lopes

Administrative Staff: David Cunningham, Mark Preut, Kevin Harrell, Keith Jones, Myron Graber

Teaching staff: Lindsay Buck, Kel Catterton, Kiley Lockett, Sylvia Trevino-Maack

School Board Members: Jessica Beeson, Melissa Johnson,

Community members: Maria Alonso Luaces, Beth Clark, Craig Comstock, Peter Karman,
Trisha Masenthin, Paula Smith, Gary Schmidt, April Sprague, Sarah Vandermast,
Amy Wolf

Students: Taylor Royal

Meeting called to order by Annette Dabney.

Agenda Items

1. Minutes: Peter Karman moved/Kiley Lockett seconded that the minutes for February 19, 2018 be approved. The motion carried.
2. Update on New Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Lewis: On March 5, 2018 Dr. Lewis met jointly with EAC and DELTA members. He was asked to respond to the following questions which had been sent to him in advance:
 - a. What do you see as the expectations/roles for EAC (the revived Equity Advisory Council) and DELTA (the District Equity Leadership Team Advisory which formed out of crisis in the district)?
 - b. What solutions and strategies do you have for handling funding disparities across Lawrence schools? For example, the PTA/PTO organizations in some schools have more difficulty raising money for special school projects than the PTA/PTOs in more affluent neighborhoods.
 - c. What are your basic strategic goals for equity in USD 497 and how do you intend to measure progress toward those goals?
 - d. How can you help us address the racial disparity of students in our gifted programs and also in our programs for students identified as having behavioral issues?
 - e. EAC is concerned about the MOU between USD 497 and the Lawrence Police Department. What is your experience with, and view of Security Resource Officers who are Lawrence Police Department Employees in our schools?
 - f. What approach would you take to bring consistency in the disciplinary procedures across our schools, including the criteria for In-School and Out-of-School Suspension? How would you address the racial disparity we see in discipline practices?

Dr. Lewis then responded to questions from the floor. In general, it appears that Dr. Lewis is open to working with DELTA and EAC to address racial disparities within the district. He has been visiting the schools, having community conversations and attending luncheons with various groups within the community. His contract with the Lawrence Public Schools begins on July 1, 2018.

3. Issues related to Gun Control and Suspensions: Concerns were raised regarding the students who have recently been taken into police custody because of alleged threats of violence. Sylvia Trevino- Maack and Kevin Harrell clarified that there is an additional set

of criteria that must be considered if a student who has an IEP (Individual Education Plan) is involved in a situation that might lead to police intervention.

4. Overview of Committees: Annette Dabney noted that DELTA members will be joining EAC for committee work. Committee membership was updated as follows:
 - a. **Academic Achievement:** Annette Dabney (Chair), T. Eli Horn, Amy Wolf, Maria Alonso Luaces, Tricia Masenthin, John Ruryk, Jessica Beeson, Peter Karman, Keith Jones, Myron Graber, Njeri Shomari, Adrineh Mehdikhani, Rosina Aquirre, Leonard Ortiz, Leona Antoine, Kay Emerson, Jose Trujillo
 - b. **Socio-Emotional & Behavioral Supports Systems:** Lois Orth-Lopes (Chair), Craig Comstock, Gary Schmidt, Melissa Johnson, Mary Ann Graham, Beth Clark, Alan Hollinger, Sarah Vandermast, Taylor Royal, Paula Smith, Charles Dominguez, Verdell Taylor, Erica Hill, Njeri Shomari, Cassie Brown, Kiley Lockett, Lindsay Buck
 - c. **Policy:** Randy Masten (Chair), Sylvia-Trevino-Maack, Kel Catterton, David Cunningham, Mark Preut, Gina Byrd-Stadler, Kay Emerson, April Sprague, Leona Antoine, Erica Hill
 - d. **Hiring & Retaining Teachers of Color:** Cynthia Eubanks (Chair),
 - e. **Fundraising for Equity:** Charles Dominguez, Lindsay Buck

5. Committee Work Time: The DELTA and EAC members broke into committees for the rest of the meeting time.

Next meeting: Monday, May 21, 2018, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Randy Masten will chair.

Submitted by Lois Orth-Lopes