



***Joint Equity Advisory Council and Parents of Color Advisory Team  
Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2021  
5:00 PM-6:30 PM***

**Members Present (EAC)**

Chair: Jessica Beeson

EAC Members: Lois Orth-Lopes, John Rury, Gary Schmidt, Chris Tilden

**Members Present (POC)**

Chair: Kay Emerson

POC Members: Cassie Eanes Brown, Kim Fuller, Adrinah Mehdikhani,  
Njeri Shomari

School Board Member: Carole Cadue-Blackwood

**Executive Leadership Team Member Responsible**

Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Executive Director, Inclusion, Engagement, and Belonging

**LPS Administrators, Curriculum Specialists, Executive Directors, and Facilitators:**

Annette Kenoly, Curriculum Specialist

Dr. Zach Conrad, Executive Director, Data and Technology

Dr. Bill DeWitt, Principal, Career and Technical Education Center

Jeff Harkin, Assistant Principal, Free State High

Rick Henry, Director of Secondary Schools

Dr. Danica Moore, Equity Facilitator

Mark Preut, Associate Principal, Lawrence High

Jayci Roberson, Principal, Woodlawn

Kristen Ryan, Director of Elementary Schools

## **Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Update on Social Studies Curriculum Revision**

Annette Kenoly gave an update for the Curriculum team on the Social Studies revision. She said there were some challenges in getting teachers together due to the shortage of substitutes. The team is working hard to make sure representatives from all buildings are available to work during the process. There is a review of the current unit of study and creating new units of study for an American history course. Work is going on to embed indigenous history into our 4th and 7th grade American history course. The goal is to look at how we are naturally embedding history into the historically marginalized community. They are looking at instructional resources to ensure there are historical perspectives for all.

Lois Orth-Lopes asked if at the 4th grade level on indigenous communities are still looking at Lawrence's history. At one point, our 3rd-grade level was limited to the experience of the 3rd-grade teacher (local history).

Kristen Ryan shared that there was a leadership team reviewing units at each level.

John Rury said his question concerned the possibility that students may have questions about racial discrimination and/or oppression in history (or at present) in connection with the revised social studies/history curriculum. Furthermore, John Rury asked if the group working on that curriculum had given thought to how such issues ought to be dealt with, especially in light of recent controversies about such topics, including CRT.

### **Equity in Action: Elementary Literacy Curriculum Update**

Dr. Danica Moore talked about our K-5 Pilot, three different curriculums, K-1, four standards around literacy, phonics for the pilot, and examining all through the CSRC lense. Retraining on resource criteria. We are looking at Native American content. We are taking four days to retrain on CSRC to look at curriculum and standards. Redesigned lesson plans--continued review and ongoing.

### **Culture/Behavior/Schools Report : Responsive Classrooms Update**

Kristen Ryan talked about Responsive Classrooms. Sunny Halsted (New York Elementary) had shared support from the CI3T and how it helped with Responsive Classroom training and supported our teachers. Cordley Elementary did role-playing at their last Professional Development, New York Elementary did a reset on language, and Chalita has teachers at Prairie Park ready for Responsive Classrooms. This speaks to the climate and culture these classrooms have created. Every teacher has a signal for quiet, and every student knows that signal and knows immediately what to do. Classrooms begin each day in a circle with their teacher.

### **Culture/Behavior/Schools Report: Restorative Practices Update**

Rick Henry spoke about Restorative Practices and said we are continuing to transition to a restorative approach, peaceful resolution of conflict by listening, repairing any harm done, and restoring positivity with the community. KIPCOR has trained our high school and middle school staff, including paras. Student support facilitators are our champions. We continue to have meetings with KIPCOR. PowerSchool was updated with restorative data, and we are working on embedding Restorative Practices within the PowerSchool system. Ten administrators attended a Restorative Practice conference and learned a lot of practical structures in that meeting, some of which were put in place the next day. Rick said that was pretty exciting! We are now partnering with Oakland Public Schools, a leading district in Restorative Practice. Oakland Public Schools talked about how they have been on this journey for a long time. Facilitators connected with our facilitators. Their Restorative Practice is Restorative Justice--not only did the school district incorporate all the structures, so did the community. We will be getting more of our students trained--that helped make the shift in the overall culture. Next time we meet, we will extend the invitation to EAC and POC to join the meeting. The partnership's focus is about restoring relationships, building relationships, and all the things we see in facilitating restorative circles. Very exciting!

### **Culture/Behavior/Schools Report: Restorative Practice Parent Training**

Special Note:

Due to a conflict, the Restorative Practice Parent Training will be rescheduled for January. We will communicate the meeting dates as soon as this information is finalized.

### **Culture/Behavior/Schools Report: Behavior Data Update**

Dr. Conrad shared his presentation about our behavior data in PowerSchool from the October 25, 2021 Board Meeting (a link to this was shared last month).

### **ECAP Data Update**

Administrators are identifying where ECAP Data focus areas are incorporated into their building goals. ECAP Data focus areas will be added to DigiCoach in January. We will use this tool to monitor data monthly.

### **Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS)**

The EOS Survey for students and faculty will close on Friday, December 10, 2021. EOS data from each school will be shared in January 2022.

### **Social Emotional Learning Survey**

Dr. Johnson also shared that we are working on a social emotional learning survey that will go to faculty and staff next week. The document will be shared along with the minutes from the meeting to provide stakeholder input. Please provide feedback by Monday, December 13th.

### **Reappointment of Chair of Parents of Color Advisory Team**

Dr. Johnson congratulated Kay Emerson on her next role on the School Board! This will mean that Kay will be leaving us as Chairperson and we are in need of someone to step up to take her place. Please let us know if you are interested!

Dr. Johnson said if there were any questions from the evening, please email either her or Michelle Hunter and we will get an answer to you.

Notes by Michelle Hunter

From the desk of Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Executive Director, Inclusion, Engagement, and Belong