

Parent of Color & Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021

Dr. Stubblefield welcomed the group and discussion ensued regarding the following items-

1. New Administrative Role in the District-Executive Director, Inclusion, Engagement, and Belonging

This new position is a reorganization of district administrative duties following the resignation of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Anna Stubblefield. The district's strategic plan prioritizes equity and connections through strong relationships to ensure that every student and staff member feels welcome and a sense of belonging in school.

Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Interim Building Principal at Lawrence High School for the previous two years, has been hired to take on this new role. Dr. Stubblefield introduced Dr. Johnson (Aka Mama J) to the group and shared that she has an extensive background working in collaboration with parents and community groups in regards to equity and inclusion. *(FYI- Dr. Johnson previously served 30+ years as a high school teacher, special education teacher, middle/high school principal, elementary leadership coach, and district project leader in Missouri prior to her 28 years as an independent national educational consultant facilitating professional development)*

In this new role, Dr. Johnson will inform and influence systemic change to develop, implement, and sustain culturally responsive systems through teaching, organizational policies and practices, and community engagement. As such, she will be the point person for both advisory groups- Equity and Parents of Color.

2. Follow-Up to Written Reports Previously Shared

- a. SRO Presentation to the Board (5/24/2021) - Information was shared regarding the previous survey results and the current Thought Exchange results regarding the School Resource Officer program in our schools. Additionally, Dr. Lewis shared information/recommendations from the Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice. (Information is available on district website)
- b. From the data collected and determined based on findings/recommendations, the district determined next steps (Some of these were being put into place right before the pandemic hit (Mach 2020); however, no additional progress was made during this past school year)
 - i. Next Steps-
 1. Develop procedures for training building staff on working with SRO's

**Parent of Color & Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021**

2. Communicate district SRO procedures with building administration and staff
 - a. SRO's are NOT school disciplinarians and do not make recommendations for school discipline
 3. Formally introduce SRO's and their purpose to the student body
 4. District will continue joint meetings with City of Lawrence to discuss SRO program
 5. Review current MOU
- c. Boundary Advisory Council Update- Minutes were shared from the last meeting (5/11/2021).
At the April 12, 2021 board meeting, Board President Kelly Jones charged the Boundary Advisory Committee with completing a comprehensive boundary study of our 14 elementary schools.

Zachary Conrad, Executive Director of Data & Technology shared with the committee the software he utilizes to redraw boundary lines and look at how that affects enrollment and class size. He explained that the process starts with building capacity and then exploring shifts in the boundaries of the schools that can take on more and where to alleviate some of those pressures.

After explaining and showing how he obtains his information, the group discussed the following considerations to bear in mind as he develops the various boundary changes to review-

- Building Capacity (is first and foremost criteria)
- How can we balance the SES between the schools (Free & Reduced Lunch Status)
 - *It was explained that at the elementary level, in order to balance out SES, we would need to look into bussing students*
- Limited or No Crossing of Intersections
- Feeder Schools/Have all students from a particular elementary school go to one middle school and not be split into two middle schools
- Possibility of creating grade centers (affect more than 1 school; i.e.- one school being grades K-2 and another school being grades 3-5)

After physically going out to schools to walk thru the buildings to gain a true understanding of possibilities (capacity in terms of how many rooms are actually available to be used as classrooms); Mr. Conrad can start experimenting with the boundary lines and shifting students to obtain a clearer idea of where we can really make changes. The June meeting will consist of Mr. Conrad sharing specific scenarios to review/discuss.

Parent of Color & Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021

3. EACP Summary

There was a follow-up Meeting Making meeting comprised of district staff and select advisory committee members on May 25, 2021.

The areas to prioritize for the future (from the data compiled)-

- Student engagement /outcomes
- Instruction/assessment
- Continuous improvement/assessment

“What does it mean to prioritize these areas?”

The following people will be meeting to discuss/determine what “to prioritize” means and how to do so-

Patrick Kelly, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Leash Wisdom, Director of Instruction Equity & Student Services

Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Executive Director of Inclusion, Engagement & Belonging

Danica Moore, Equity Facilitator

Annette Kenoly, Curriculum & Instructional Specialist

After this group has met, they will follow up and engage in discussion with both EAC and POC.

There will be a continuous evaluation process.

Our current memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Midwest ended with conclusion of ECAP. LPS still has access to resources, etc. We can reach back out to Midwest to engage/participate in a new MOU with them regarding a specific need for next year. This resource is free of charge.

Miscellaneous-

- Ongoing Meeting Dates (to begin August 2021)
 - Group does not normally meet in July
 - Dr. Johnson will coordinate with Kay Emerson and Jessica Beeson to determine ongoing dates

- School Board Opportunity

Three seats on the seven-member school board are up for election (current term expires Jan 2022). Incumbent candidates G.R. Gordon-Ross and Kelly Jones filed for re-election along with newcomers Melissa Clissold, Kay Emerson, Leticia Gradington, Markus Logan, Nate Morsches, Andrew Nussbaum, Douglas Redding, Elizabeth Stephens, Travis Tozer and Myranda Zarlengo. (Total of 12 candidates have filed)
Thanks and Congrats Kay!

**Since more than 10 people have filed to run, there will be a primary election August 3rd and the top six vote getters will be on the ballot for the general election on Nov. 2.*

**Parent of Color & Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021**

Action Items

- Dawn Downing and Dr. Stubblefield will share information, contact lists, etc. with Dr. Johnson to aide in the transition of Dr. Johnson facilitating these advisory committees.

Next Meeting- August 2021 (TBD)