

# **Board Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting**

Thursday, March 3, 2022 1:00 PM

Due to COVID-19 Board meetings will take place via Zoom

## **1. Call to Order**

1.A. Board goals tied to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

1.A.1. Raise visibility of MESD to advocate for adequate funding and program resources with a racial equity lens

1.A.2. Ensure inclusion through implementing our equity lens to achieve equitable student outcomes

1.A.3. Advocate for inclusive educational curriculum to address racist history throughout the region and the state

1.B. Strategic Plan goals tied to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

1.B.1. Improve outcomes for students

1.B.2. Become an acknowledged leader and convener for improving educational outcomes

1.B.3. Increase district, student and community participation and satisfaction with our services

1.B.4. Attract, develop, and retain high-quality staff

## **2. Review minutes from the February 7, 2022 meeting**

### **3. Inclusive Curriculum**

3.A. MESD professional development plan for inclusive curriculum

### **4. Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline**

4.A. Review next steps from last meeting and determine additional action items

### **5. Proposal of replacing land acknowledgement with educational opportunities at Board meetings**

### **6. Reviewing policy amendments for gender neutral language and our equity lens**

6.A. What are we missing for a policy review?

6.B. Can we add to this equity lens?

# Board Equity and Inclusion Committee

## Thursday, February 7, 2022

### 2019-2021 Agency Goals

#1 – Improve outcomes for students

#2 – Become an acknowledged leader and convener of improving educational outcomes

#3 – Increase district and community participation and satisfaction with our services

#4 – Attract, develop and retain high-quality staff

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022 by Committee Chair Ying.

#### • CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** Helen Ying, Chair  
Mary Botkin, Board Member  
Samuel Henry, Board member  
Denyse Peterson, Board member

**Absent:** None

**Administration:** Laura Conroy, Director of Strategic Engagement  
Deon Logan, Human Resources Director  
Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent  
Heather Severns, Board Secretary  
Reiko Williams, Director of regional Equity Initiatives and Partnerships

#### Guests:

**1. Review notes from the January 6 meeting-** The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 6 meeting and accepted them.

#### **2. Inclusive Curriculum**

- a. Continue review Board Policy on adoptions and recommended updates. The committee reviewed the final draft of policy II/IIA-Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials. Committee members were good with the language in the policy. Samuel Henry would like to see how it works on the ground but this will take time.
- b. Review of OSBA recommended Board Policy on Instructional resources/Instructional materials- OSBA Recommendations were reviewed and accepted. The Board Secretary will incorporate them into the draft policy and it will be taken to the Board on February 15 for a first reading by the Board.
- c. MESD professional development plan for inclusive curriculum-Angela Hubbs is working with our component districts and will come back in March with an update. Assistant Superintendent Perrins reminded the committee that each district determines its own adoption process, curriculum, and professional development

needs, our role is to support them. We will be sharing what we consider best practice and supporting them that way.

### **3. Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline**

- a. Review next steps from the last meeting and determine action items. Mary Botkin has been speaking with Reverend Rodney Page regarding this topic. He is going on a state wide tour with the Archbishop and a Rabbi to begin talking to communities about the need for being more aggressive at ending the school to prison pipeline and engaging youth in more productive activities and giving them options for future growth. There needs to be alternatives for them. Mary would like to put on a career fair with the trades union so students can see what is out there and what they need to do to qualify for apprenticeships. COVID-19 has made it difficult to hold a career fair. Samuel Henry asked about making videos or having a Zoom meeting so we can move forward.

Discussion was held around the programs that are happening at Helensview.

Helensview Principal Dan Cohnsteadt will be invited to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting to be part of this conversation and to help with developing some concrete action steps.

- b. Do we want to connect with school board members of our component districts and let them know what we have learned about incarcerated youth in Multnomah County from Deena Corso? How can we work together to help students in our region that are justice involved find a path that is going to be away from the prison pipeline? Mary Botkin is going to make contact with the Board Chairs from our component districts and invite them to give us feedback.

### **4. Proposal of replacing land acknowledgement with educational opportunities at Board meetings-**

4. a. Committee Chair Helen Ying took the step of practicing an educational opportunity at the last regular session Board meeting as a pilot and asked for feedback from the group on the practice and what would be the best steps moving forward.
- b. A discussion was held on how an educational opportunity would be more impactful than reading a land acknowledgement. We should use information that the Native American Community has put together. The reason we want to move away from doing a land acknowledgement is because it is performative and like checking a box and then moving on to business as usual with no discussion of the experiences locally or the positional power and authority the MESD has to impact the conditions and experiences of American Indian communities in the region.
- c. The committee is in agreement that we should shift away from the land acknowledgement to an educational opportunity.
- d. Samuel Henry asked Director Williams if she could help us break out of the mold and help move us forward. Director Williams agreed to help prepare materials for the next Board meeting and Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- e. Action item - Outline a direction we need to go. All committee members to do their own research into this topic to help inform the discussion on best steps moving forward

- 5. Reviewing policy amendments for gender neutral language and our equity lens -** The committee did not get to this topic.
- a. What are we missing for a policy review?
  - b. Can we add to this equity lens?

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of this committee will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary