

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:00 PM

Virtual Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

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

1.A.1. To be Confirmed

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

1.B.1. Creating a high quality learning experience for all

1.B.2. Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

1.B.3. Building a culturally responsive workforce

2. Review minutes from the September 7, 2023 meeting and report on action items

3. Review Board Special Session Minutes from August 15, 2023 and develop 2023-2024 committee goals and action plan

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee

Tuesday, September 7, 2023

2023-2028 Agency Goals

#1 – Creating a high-quality learning experience for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Building a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens-<https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023 by Committee Chair Ying.

• CALL TO ORDER

Present: Helen Ying, Chair
Denyse Peterson, Board member

Absent: Danny Cage

Administration: Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Heather Severns, Board Secretary
Reiko Williams, Director of Regional Equity Initiatives and Partnerships

Guests: Dr. Kyla Armstrong Romero

1. **Review notes from the June 1 meeting-** The committee approved the minutes from the June 1 meeting.
2. **Action steps for the 2022-2023 Board Goals assigned to the Equity and Inclusion Committee**
 - a. Discussion with Dr. Kyla Armstrong Romero- Dr. Armstrong Romero spoke with the committee about why she moved from Colorado to Portland for her position. She is one of the first outside hires at this level of a position within the Department of Community Justice and is the first African American female to sit in the director position for juvenile services in Multnomah County.

Under Dr. Armstrong-Romero's umbrella she has detention where she gets to work with MESD staff Christine Otto and Todd Nicholson as well as court and community services which includes probation, diversion, early intervention and records. She also has a separate branch that is the family resolution services team which does mediation at the courthouse. They do this for child custody, divorce cases and separation. Part of her role has been to build or mend relationships with human services.

Dr. Armstrong Romero let the group know she is open and interested to learn more about MESD and how they can partner not only on the detention side, but on the front

end and be more inclusive and create more opportunities. She has met with Portland Public Schools as well on a monthly basis.

Assistant Superintendent Perrins shared a brief explanation of MESD and the work the Board Equity and inclusion Committee has done with Dr. Armstrong Romero.

Committee Chair Helen Ying spoke with Dr. Armstrong Romero about a conversation she had with Judge Svetky around what kind of data the judges get before they make their sentencing. What Helen took away from that meeting is that the data is not consistent for every case but has seen improvement. Helen also asked about what kind of training the judges get in terms of understanding that our criminal justice system is over represented by people of color, particularly African American, Hispanic American, and Native American. Dr. Armstrong Romero let the group know that she has been asked to talk with a group of judges. The last meeting they had was on gun violence, but this was not a training. They are trying to create different alternatives for judges, she believes that sometimes judges feel like the only options they have are detention or ankle monitor while trying to balance community safety and rights of the youth.

Next steps as we try and connect the dots between education and detention.

- i. Possible quarterly meetings and have thought partners around what we could do more of or less of. Should this be part of the Board committee or with others like Helensview staff and Bars 2 Bridges.
- ii. Have new MESD Board members take a tour of Donald E Long.
- iii. How can we make more connections?

3. Review 2023-2024 Committee Working Agreements draft

- a. The only change made in this agreement was moving the meeting from 90 minutes to 60.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned 1:57 p.m. The next meeting of this committee will be October 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

**Multnomah ESD Board of Directors'
Board Special Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

**2022-2028
Agency Goals**

#1 – Creating a high quality learning experience for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Building a culturally Responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens- <https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Katrina Doughty called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 in accordance with the agenda and public notice of the meeting. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Board Members Present: Renee Anderson
Jessica Arzate
Danny Cage
Katrina Doughty-Chair
Samuel Henry
Helen Ying

Board Members Absent: Denyse Peterson

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Paul Coakley, Superintendent
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests: None

2. **Board Goals-**The Board continued their discussion on their goals from the August 3rd retreat.

2022-2023 Board Goals

- A. **Goal 1-** Evaluate current facilities to develop a long-term plan ensuring student and staff success. **Will not carry forward to 23-24**
- B. **Goal 2:** Identify statutory and legislative priorities for engaging legislators and community partners to develop meaningful advocacy for MESD students and communities **Will carry forward to 23-24**
- C. **Goal 3:** Ensure inclusion through implementing our equity lens to achieve equitable district outcomes **Will carry forward to 23-24**
- D. **Goal 4:** Continue to focus and prioritization of regional leadership around equity **Will carry forward to 23-24**
- E. **Goal 5:** Commitment to continuous Board Education and development **Will carry forward to 23-24**

2023-2024 Board Goals-These goals, along with the Board Professional Development Goals+, will be sent out in a Google form for Board members to make comments on.

- A. **Goal 1:** Identify statutory and legislative priorities for engaging legislators and community partners to develop meaningful advocacy for MESD students and communities
- B. **Goal 2:** Ensure inclusion through implementing our equity lens to achieve equitable district outcomes
- C. **Goal 3:** Continue to focus and prioritization of regional leadership around equity
- D. **Goal 4:** Commitment to continuous Board Education and development
 - a. Ensure Board education, onboarding and recruitment practices align with RSBET goals.
 - b. Implement goals identified from OSBA Professional Development grant program ([2-13-23 Work Session Minutes](#))
 - c. Be our best Board member selves

3. Committees

- A. Structure
 - i. Three or less Board members (being mindful of quorum)
 - ii. Limit average monthly recurring meetings to one hour
 - iii. Mindful of time and labor of staff (is it necessary for them to be there?)
 - iv. There will be at least one Cabinet member assigned to each committee.
 - v. Presentations from other staff will be done for the full Board at Regular session meetings.
 - vi. Discussion was held about having Cabinet support at committee meeting be consistent with time and frequency. We want to get into a streamlined process.
- B. Committees
 - i. Equity and Inclusion
 - 1. Helen (Chair)
 - 2. Denyse(Vice-Chair)
 - 3. Danny
 - ii. Finance
 - 1. Renee (Chair)
 - 2. Jessica (Vice-chair)
 - 3. Danny-Scholarship fundraising
 - iii. Superintendent Evaluation
 - 1. Katrina (Chair)
 - 2. Jessica (Vice-Chair)
 - 3. Renee
 - iv. Legislative
 - 1. Katrina (Chair)
 - 2. Danny (Vice-Chair)
 - 3. Samuel
 - v. Policy (As needed)
 - 1. Renee (Chair)

2. Helen (Vice-Chair)
3. Denyse
- vi. Work Groups (as needed)
 1. Board Development
 2. RSBET
- vii. OAESD Governance Council Representative
 1. Katrina
4. Board Operating Agreements-These will be circulated for review. The Board Secretary will review notes from the 8-3 retreat for more information.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary