

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:00 PM

Virtual Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

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

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

1.A.2. Continue to focus and prioritization of regional leadership around equity

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 December 5, 2024 meeting and report on action items

2.A. Action items

2.A.1. Helensview Attendance follow-up

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee

Thursday, December 5, 2024

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, December 5, 2024 by Committee Chair Anderson.

● CALL TO ORDER

Present: Renee Anderson, Committee Chair
Denyse Peterson, Board member
Helen Ying, Board member

Absent: None

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

Guests: None

1. Review notes from the October 3 meeting- The committee approved the minutes from the October 3 meeting.

2. Update on how we are doing with the Equity in Contracting Policy.

Presenter: Dr. Reiko Williams, Director of Regional Equity Initiatives and Partnerships

- Survey Results on Equity in Contracting:
 - Awareness: 75% of MESD administrators are aware of the diverse vendor policy.
 - Vendor Engagement: 50% of administrators have contracted with at least one vendor of color.
 - Vendor Certification Awareness: 50% of staff are unsure if their vendors are certified as MWESB (Minority, Women, Emerging Small Business).
- Training and Resources:
 - Training for purchasing card users now emphasizes intentionality in purchasing from diverse vendors.
 - A copy of the updated training will be shared with the Board.
 - An internal diverse vendor list has been established and distributed, accompanied by links to diverse business directories available on the MESD website.

- Challenges:
 - Identifying diverse vendors, as many are not certified MWESBs.
 - A new data collection tool aligns with MESD's applicant attestation system to identify vendor diversity (race, gender, veteran status).
- Contract Analysis (2024-2025):
 - Contracts Reviewed: 161 contracts and MOUs across 131 agencies.
 - Diversity Representation: Approximately 19% of agencies are known diverse vendors.
 - Geographic Spread: 16 states represented, with a majority being Oregon-based.
 - Vendor Types: Staffing agencies, independent contractors, tech support, local nonprofits, photographers, educational institutions, and more.
- Family Survey: MESD is conducting a survey to identify potential diverse vendors within the family community.

2. Board Member Feedback

Board Member Helen Ying:

- Requested the Equity in Contracting presentation be shared at the December Board meeting and updated annually in September.
- Suggested focusing on regional data instead of statewide data to better inform MESD's initiatives.

Assistant Superintendent Perrins:

- Will confirm if regional data is already available and consolidate it if necessary.
- Clarified MESD's role in supporting districts without dictating specific instructional practices.

3. Student Attendance and Performance

Discussion Points:

- Student Performance: Board member Ying expressed concerns about stagnating student progress.
- Attendance at Helensview:
 - Noted a significant attendance drop from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024.
 - Perrins explained attendance trends, including student transitions between Helensview and home districts.
 - Therapeutic classroom attendance may require different tracking methods.
 - Perrins will investigate further and provide updates.

4. Bullying and Harassment Reporting

Committee Chair Anderson:

- Inquired about the accessibility and clarity of MESD's complaint reporting process.

- Assistant Superintendent Perrins:
 - Highlighted compliance with new Title IX requirements focused on sexual harassment reporting.
 - Confirmed an accessible complaint process is available on the MESD website.
 - Risk Manager Jelena Doney has trained principals to ensure compliance.
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Next Steps

- Present the requested data on regional districts at the next meeting.
 - Continue refining Equity in Contracting initiatives and share progress.
 - Investigate Helensview attendance trends and report findings.
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2. A survey will be sent to determine an alternative date due to the winter break.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned 1:35p.m. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for January 2, this is still winter break. A survey will be sent out to select an alternative date.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary