Fort Worth Independent School District Racial Equity Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Affleck, Holly	Darr, Anne	Jones, Dr. Trevon *	Nickerson, Porshe *
Anderson, Sue	Dominguez, Nyssa	Krochmal, Dr. Max	Paz, Ashley
Benavidez, Dr. Dorene *	Grover, Barbara	Lee, Yassmin	Pérez, Jonathan *
Breed, Sherry *	Hall, Mia	Luebanos, Anael	Phillips, Quinton
Chavez, Aracely	Herrera, Alfonso	Mattingly, Dr. Cissy *	Poullard, Eric
Clark, Rickie	Hodges, Charles	McKinney, Wanda	Poullard, Precious
Cytron-Walker, Adena	Jones, Ebony	Moss, Christene	Walker, Dr. Carlos *

Committee Members Absent:

Argumedo, Miguel	Griffith, Barbara	Nixon, Glenn	Turcios, Carlos
Balzer, Dr. Jill	Harris, Cleveland	Pace, Brandi	Villalobos, Lupita
Bond, Clint	Harrison-Jordan, Tina	Richter, Breinn	West, Bill
El, Robert	Masterson, Tim	Rincón, Cynthia	West, David
Garcia-Lopez, Norma	Masterson, Twyla	Sorensen, Marcy	Williams, Dr. Jared
Gravelle, Elizabeth	Mohamed, Mohamed	Starr-Malone, Sonja	Young, Patricia

Courageous Conversations About Race Affiliate Practitioners (*) Present:

Burrell, Dr. Stacy *			
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Courageous Conversations About Race Affiliate Practitioners (*) Absent:

Guests:

Telecia	Krista Coleman	Nydia Lewis	
Christopher Riddick	Krista Varando		

CALL TO ORDER:

- Mr. Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
- Minutes from December 3, 2020 meeting approved by consensus
 - Recommended changes were noted and will be made to the minutes.
 - Add names of audience members who spoke
 - Follow-up to ensure the committee's questions are sent to Mr. Spears.
 - In further discussion, it was decided that meetings should be recorded as they continue to be conducted virtually, and that minutes should be more summative.
- Mrs. Breed reviewed the Racial Equity Committee (REC) Meeting Protocol revised for Zoom

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Update from Equity & Community Collaborations:

- The Equity & Community Collaborations assists with our most marginalized students and families. Includes:
 - Student Engagement & School Completion (C.Riddick, Director)
 - Family Action Center-East (C.Hodges/C.Walker, Directors)
 - Adult Education (N.Lewis, Director)
- Also coordinates community events
 - FWISD MLK Day Staff Day of Service
 - César Chavez & Dolores Huerta Day Student Day of Service
 - FWISD Forward Registration Walk
- C. Riddick provided an overview of Student Engagement & School Completion.
 - Consists of Stay-In-School Specialists and Court Liaisons
 - Work to reduce truancy and drop-outs
 - > Specialists trained in drop-out prevention, poverty mindset, and many other areas
 - ➤ Interventions and Engagement registering students, supplies and needs for families and much more
- C. Hodges & C.Walker provided an overview of services provided by the new Family Action Center (FAC):
 - The FAC combines the forces of the Historic Stop Six Initiatives and Eastside Alliance Community Partnerships to focus on historically underperforming and undersupported schools and communities in East Fort Worth. Located on the campus of Sunrise-McMillan ES with a satellite office at Eastern Hills HS.
 - Services focus on behavioral health and community resources; early childhood resources; and much more.
 - Work with many Co-Located Service Partners.
 - Have provided informational seminars via Facebook Live to uplift, inform, and empower
 - Examples of Initiatives and On-going Outreach during COVID-19:
 - 20,000+ boxes of food distributed (ongoing);
 - 350 holiday meal boxes distributed in December;
 - 200 coats provided to children in December;
 - 80 laptops for Sunrise McMillan ES students;
 - 20 A/C window units provided and installed for elderly and veterans;
 - Mammograms and women's wellness exams (Mobile Health);
 - Eastern Hills HS food drive (partnered with MBK)
 - Also helped a family before Christmas with an apartment, furniture, clothes, a car, and food.

Questions:

- Did I hear correctly from the presentation that Tarrant County has one of the highest domestic violence rates?
 - Yes, sadly. For our Facebook Live event we try to look at the data and we try to disaggregate by race; the domestic violence rates have gone up during COVID.

- We archive our Facebook Live conversations so people can go back and watch them at any time.
- N. Lewis provided information about the work of the Adult Education and Literacy department:
 - Adult Education is funded through a partnership with Workforce Solutions.
 - The department is an instructional, training, and support related service for Tarrant County adults. All courses are free of charge.
 - What is offered:
 - Adult Basic Education/Adult Secondary Education;
 - EL Civics;
 - English as a Second Language (ESL), ESL for Professionals;
 - Family Literacy;
 - Workplace Literacy;
 - Transition Bridge;
 - Contextualization Classes;
 - Reentry classes; and
 - Integrated Educational Trainings (IETs)

Questions:

- May we have a copy of the presentation so we could share this information with the community?
- What are the qualifications to take the IET classes?
 - All IET training providers have different qualifications, e.g. one class might be at a 9th grade reading level, etc. We can assist learners if they need help in qualifying.
- How is this information disseminated to the community?
 - We work with several community helpers to disseminate the information and it's on our webpage
- Are Adult Ed classes virtual now? Have we lost some students due to COVID?
 - Yes, we have lost some students because they do not have technology and/or internet connection; we're working on trying to get some technology for students to use.
- Are there any barriers for our families, e.g. documentation, etc.?
 - No. Documentation is not required.

2. Discuss subcommittee guidelines and expectations:

- Members are reminded to use Courageous Conversations protocol.
- Will plan for refresher training with committee members in near future.

3. Subcommittee Reports:

- Staffing & Recruiting No report at this time.
- Discipline Current areas of focus:
 - What does discipline look like with in virtual learning?
 - Which campus-level or other staff members can provide support (counselors, intervention specialists, etc.)?

- Communication
 - Plans to survey the schools regarding outdoor signage (marquees, etc.) and how do they use them effectively.
- Academics & Segregation Current areas of focus:
 - Culturally relevant curriculum and how can pedagogy move to ELA?
 - Data transparency including public facing dashboard aligned with the racial equity policy.
 - Results from campus equity audits
 - How do we measure success beyond STAAR and how do we share that success with the community?
 - Accountability and implementation
 - Course offerings
 - Data on achievement gaps by race
 - Plan to invite Dr. Saenz to discuss Leadership Academies and perhaps host a virtual institute.

REMINDERS:

- MLK Day / Employee Day of Service: January 18, 2021.
- Student Speaker Series: LGBTQIA+ Students of Color: Schooling Experiences: January 19, 2021
- Next Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021, 5 p.m., via Zoom

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

- Race and Disparities in Healthcare
- MBK/MSK Program in FWISD
- Courageous Conversations Protocol Refresher

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Signed: *Quinton Phillips* Date: <u>2/8/21</u>

Mr. Quinton "Q" Phillips, Co-Chair

Signed: <u>Maximilian Krochmal</u> Date: 2/8/21

Dr. Max Krochmal, Co-Chair

/clm & bg