

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)
Equity Council Meeting
October 6, 2015

The Equity Council met at 701 East Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Ferguson, Stephanie Hong, Roy Woods

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Cozart, Dikiea Elery, Hazel Forsythe, Jojuana Leavell-Greene, Brian Hodge, Ron Langley, Jack Lyons, Bonnie Mitchell-Clark, Jerry Sims, Sara Szwilski, Isabel Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shelley Chatfield, Marilyn Clark, Jimmy Meadows, Vickie Ritchie, Darryl Thompson, Myron Thompson, Lindsay Wright, Sarah Gaines

CALL TO ORDER

Roy Woods called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

I. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AGENDA ITEM 1 (a)
Reading of Mission Statement

Stephanie Hong read the Mission Statement.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (b)
Approval of Minutes

Because there wasn't a quorum, the minutes from the September 1, 2015 meeting were not approved.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (c)
Communication and Public Participation

Roy Woods welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Darryl Thompson introduced Sarah Gaines as the new Administrative Assistant to the Senior Director of Equity.

Shelley Chatfield introduced Lindsay Wright as the District's new Compliance Officer.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (d)

Presentation

Darryl Thompson introduced Rebecca DiLoreto from the Children's Law Center, Inc. and Marion Gibson from the Strengthening KY (SKY) Families Program. They represented the Race, Community, and Child Welfare Project.

LeChrista Finn, Larry Johnson, and Rick Jacobs were also present in support of the Race, Community, and Child Welfare Project.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services announced the Race, Community and Child Welfare Summit on June 19, 2007. The purpose of the effort is to decrease the racial disproportionality and disparate outcomes for African-American youth and families within the child welfare system in Fayette County.

Following the presentation, Darryl Thompson asked about the number of referrals and/or placements for Fayette County Public School students. Rebecca DiLoreto shared that DCBS (Department for Community Based Services) provides a detailed report. However, the most recent report that RCCW has is from 2010. They have requested more recent data from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and will send it to the District when they receive it. Additionally, Roy Woods asked why it costs \$5.50 more per day to provide care for an African-American child. Marion Gibson stated that African-American children are considered "special needs" if they are 2 years old or older, and the foster parent receives more money. Roy also requested a copy of the Fayette County Public Schools' policy that RCCW states does not allow students in foster care to remain at their home school. Rebecca DiLoreto shared that the Fayette County Public Schools may not have a published policy that prevents it, but the District needs to have a written policy, approved by the Board, that permits it.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (e)

Updates

Roy Woods mentioned that several appointed council members are eligible for reappointment. He will wait until those members are present to ask them if they wish to be reappointed. Several other council members are up for re-election this year.

Darryl Thompson discussed the Crosswalk document that takes the Top Ten recommendations and aligns them with the work the District is doing around Novice reduction. The Crosswalk document is intended to create greater collaboration with the Equity Council and the work around Novice reduction.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM 2 (a)

Ad-Hoc Suspensions Committee and Agreement

Roy Woods congratulated the schools that have increased their scores. Previously, 29 schools were classified as “Needs Improvement.” Now, there are 24 schools in this category. Roy also shared that suspensions and dropouts are on the Equity Council agenda, because if a child is not in school, he/she will not be able to learn. Bryan Station Middle School and Henry Clay High School will provide a suspension and dropout report to the Equity Council at the next meeting on November 10, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (b)

Student Placement/Accommodations Committee

Darryl Thompson shared that the process for how students integrate and reintegrate back into our schools has been revised. The new process lays out steps that staff follow prior to a student meeting with the R.E.S.E.T. panel.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (c)

Objective Equity Indicators Committee

Roy Woods stated that the Equity Scorecard was recently released, and it included ten recommendations that must be adhered to. There must be follow-up on the Top Ten recommendations, and the entire community must work together to move the District forward.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (d)

Positive District Actions/Community Issues Committee

A report was not provided.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (e)

Resources and Facilities Committee

Several new facilities are being constructed, and the District is looking to involve minority and/or women-owned businesses. Darryl Thompson mentioned that Marilyn Clark will provide an update to the Equity Council next month about supplier diversity over the past year and initiatives to improve it.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (f)

Ad-Hoc Community Involvement Committee

A report was not provided. However, Roy Woods mentioned the Leader in Me programs at Millcreek and Meadowthorpe Elementary Schools.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (g)
Equity Council Members on District Committees

Special Education Advisory Board – John Ferguson discussed working with the Special Education Task Force to find solutions to best accommodate students identified as requiring special education.

Budget – Stephanie Hong shared that they are trying to determine how to best utilize the District’s resources to most equitably meet the needs of our students, especially those with the highest need. Stephanie said they hope to have a presentation for the board in November. Myron Thompson stated that this is a complex area, but he expects to have a recommendation for the Board soon. John Price reiterated the complexity of the issue and shared that it will take time to implement the changes that the Staffing Committee recommends.

School Zoning Committee – A report was not provided.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (h)
Equity Policy

Darryl Thompson mentioned that work has been done on the Equity Policy. Additionally, he shared that we may want to look at the policy that Race, Community and Child Welfare is recommending and insert language in the Equity Policy as it relates to the care of students in this area.

Darryl also elaborated on the FCPS Novice Reduction Plan, R.E.S.E.T. and the referral process, and school scores.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.