



Suffield Public Schools

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 13,2020

Time: 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

DEI Subcommittee

Tim Van Tassel
Michelle Zawawi
Brendan Canny
Jack Ferraro
Sharon Goulet

Bari DeMichele
Brett Kaselouskas
Kelly Colangelo
Heather Goldstein
Lauren Stiles
Esther Boakye-Datthey
Rachel Witt
Justin Kaput
Mike Sanchez
Stephannie Holland

Ben Rodriguez
Liz Warren
Lynn Petrillo
Michelle Wilson
Amy Hawkins
Garrett Pinder
Jamie Drzyzga
Kathleen Powers
Melissa Mack
Ari Metcalf

1. Ms. Debra Borrero, CREC Director of Choice Program, attended the DEI Council meeting where she shared a presentation about the Open Choice Program. Her presentation included:
 - a. The History of the Hartford Region Open Choice Program
 - b. Open Choice Staffing and Services
 - c. Benefits of Integrated Schools and Classrooms
 - d. Suffield's Enrollment History
2. Mrs. Zawawi, Assistant Superintendent, shared the District Advancement Goals and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) draft goals for review.
3. Council discussed and approved the draft DEI mission statement and goals.
4. Two members of the council shared their Social Justice Quilt

DEI Mission Statement

The mission of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council is to empower our Suffield Public Schools, extended Suffield Public School community, to respectfully and progressively explore, express and celebrate cultural perspectives, individual identities and to challenge and repair bias systems of thinking.

DEI Focus Areas

- *Climate, participation, achievement*
- *Professional Development for faculty*
- *Increase Network/capacity*

2020-2021 Goals:

- *To create a school culture respectful of individual differences and accountable for upholding equity and social justice.*
- *To survey the schools, faculty and parents in order to measure climate, participation and achievement.*
- *To provide productive and progressive professional development and stand for accountability for equity and social justice.*
- *To engage in a professional and teacher led audit of curriculum to ensure that all BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, all religious affiliations, ethnicity and nationalities, people with different abilities, non neuro-typical, all gender identities and body types, and socioeconomic status are authentically and broadly represented in all areas of study.*