



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEI Communications Subcommittee

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 biased systems of thinking.

DEI Communications Subcommittee

- *The purpose of the DEI Communications Subcommittee is to introduce and share progress of DEI Council via community forum(s), DEI narrative for district website and write Observer article(s).*

DEI Communications Subcommittee Members

- Brendan Canny
- Bari DeMichele
- Amy Hawkins
- Lynn Petrillo
- Jamie Drzyzga
- Michelle Wilson

January 26, 2021

DEI Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Present: Brendan Canny, Jamie Drzyzga, Michelle Wilson, Bari DeMichele

Subcommittee Goals:

1. Introduce and share the progress of the DEI council to the community.
2. Update community on upcoming activities and events of the DEI council.
3. Gather and share stakeholder perspectives and feedback.

Discussion: Updates on focus group participants and scheduled tentative dates. Next steps for the board of ed newsletter and website.

Focus Group Update:

1. Discussion about what other avenues we want to explore to identify parents to participate in the focus group:
 - a. Tentative date: 3/25/21: 6:00 to 7:30
 - b. Ask principals to include this in a weekly update to gather additional interest.
 - c. Amy has identified 6 parents through ABAR that are interested in participating.
 - d. Bari will identify 1-2 special education parents.
 - e. Looking to identify 1-2 parents to represent religious groups.
 - f. Michelle W. will help identify 1-2 parents participant from Open Choice
2. Staff focus group
 - a. Tentative date: 2/25/21: 3:30 to 5:00
3. Student Focus Group
 - a. Brendan identifying students
 - b. Tentative date: 4/22/21 TBD
4. Focus group talking points:

- a. Provide a brief overview of the purpose of the DEI committee
- b. Provide 3 talking points/ guiding questions
- c. Spend 5 minutes discussing and developing group norms for the discussion
- d. Develop guiding questions at the next subcommittee meeting

Board of Education Newsletter:

1. Reach out to each subcommittee to draft a brief update after the next full DEI meeting (2/9/21).
(Brendan)

Website Updates:

1. Look at the website once we have information from each subcommittee to propose any changes to information presented and we will also look at other district websites for ideas.
2. Consider linking resources to the DEI page

Next steps for subcommittee meeting: on 2/18/21 @ 4:30

- Plan for focus group: Develop 3 guiding questions for the focus groups

Next steps for subcommittee meeting: on 3/11/21 @ 4:30

- Review teacher focus group
- Review updates from each subcommittee to write update for BOE newsletter
- Website update: Look at examples from other districts