



Equity Advisory Council

6 p.m., May 13, 2021

Zoom

Members: EAC Chair Pha Chia Moua, EAC Vice Chair Calvin Keasling, Kira Adenwala, Alyssa Bartosh, Leigh Collier, Jacob Dereje, Luis Fernando Salguero, Michael Gillis, Tian Grace, Carita Green, Grantham Green, Kathryn Haave, Emma Huppert, Cathy Kindem, Lee Mbiyu, Becky Melville, Sahasra Molleti, Lauren Nelson, Shaun Pannu, Veronica Ramos, Kate Schmidt, Scott Tryggeseth, Jorja Valandra, Julie Wavrunek and Carol Wekesser; ex-officio School Board members Sachin Isaacs, Cory Johnson and Jackie Magnuson; Superintendent Mary Kreger; Director of Equity and Inclusion Virgil Jones; Director of Secondary Education Michael Bolsoni, and Executive Assistant of the Superintendent and School Board members Caley Longendyke.

UPDATES

Superintendent Mary Kreger welcomed the group and provided general updates. Graduations will take place at Eagan High School and Rosemount High School outdoor stadiums and will allow all graduating classes to be together during the ceremony. Mariucci Arena was a previous option, but restrictions would prevent senior classes graduating together. The district continues to follow the state's Safe Learning Plan to navigate public education through the pandemic. More local control with responding to the pandemic is helpful, but can create polarizing opinions on what the school district should do. School Board Clerk Sachin Isaacs thanked EAC members and said he believes the council is working in the right direction to improve equity in the district and recognized that it takes time. School Board Director Cory Johnson thanked the effort of all the members and said it will take time to make impactful change and hopes everyone continues to be a part of the council. Director of Equity and Inclusion Virgil Jones provided an update on the hiring of the new coordinator for the Equity and Inclusion Department. Falcon Ridge Middle School Administrator Carita Green shared information on the Student Conference.

Social Studies Standards

Social Studies Lead Teacher Todd Beach presented information on the revision process of the social studies standards with the Minnesota Department of Education. The process includes committee meetings, public and expert review and feedback, rule making and implementation, a process that takes about 15 years. The current standards were put into place in 2011. He shared the current sequence of social studies standards with disciplines in citizenship and government, geography, economic and history. Each level and grade have expectations for what is taught. School districts can choose how to sequence each curriculum with the recommended number of credits. Elementary school primary grades provide foundations for each of the four disciplines, and each grade following focuses more on single disciplines.

Beach shared that the committee to review the standards totals about 40 diverse educators and administrators from a range of educational alliances. He reviewed a typical timeline for committee meetings and public feedback. Beach shared some of the public feedback to the original draft of Anchor Standards. He said public feedback included virtual town halls with hundreds of voices, and also generated about 10,000 emails to the first draft of the Anchor Standards. He said there were a lot of misconceptions, because people were not aware of what was and wasn't included in the first draft, and not understanding that the Anchor Standards are the general knowledge and broad ideas, and is followed by determining Benchmarks, or more specific ideas and topics. Beach explained that the Social Studies Standards are not curriculum. School districts hold stakeholder meetings to review the standards and purchase curriculum. School districts have about four years to implement the standards, which is

one of the factors making revision of standards a long, complex process. Beach shared sample survey questions shared with students. He welcomed an EAC member to attend a workshop for Social Studies teachers on August 25.

Survey Results and Small Group Work

Members of the EAC were asked to fill out a survey regarding the council and their expectations for the group. They worked in small groups to envision an action-oriented council. The EAC is expected to have a bigger presence next year and overlap work in other areas, departments and councils.

NEXT MEETING

6 p.m., August 12, 2021 (tentatively)

Location TBD