



Equity Advisory Council

6 p.m., January 21, 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 School Board Director Cory Johnson led an introductory activity and reviewed group norms. Kreger shared the concerns she received about the calendar for 2021-22. Administration received feedback from District 196 parents expressing concerns about the first day of school for the 2021-22 school year overlapping with Rosh Hashanah, a significant holiday that celebrates the Jewish New Year. Observance of this holiday has meant traditionally that students and staff of the Jewish faith do not attend school. Given the unique nature of the current school year and the importance of the first day of school following the pandemic, the district administration, with the support of members of the Equity Advisory Council, proposed to the School Board on January 11 to adjust the start day of school for the 2021-2022 school year to avoid excluding students from the first day of school. This is a response to a unique set of circumstances and an opportunity to provide a workable solution. Kreger asked the advisory council for input on how the district can review its calendars in the future. Falcon Ridge Middle School Administrator Carita Green said a small group of EAC members could provide input and engage a broader community in conversations regarding the school district calendar. Director of Elementary Education Sally Soliday and Director of Secondary Education Michael Bolsoni provided updates on equity work in the schools. Green provided an update on the student conference that is expected to be in the late spring.

Director of Human Resources Tom Pederstuen provided an update on the hiring process for the director of Equity and Inclusion. He asked for feedback on what types of qualities the EAC members would expect in a director. EAC members discussed the roles of chairperson and vice chairperson for the council. Pha Chia Moua and Calvin Keasling offered to hold the positions. School Board Clerk Sachin Isaacs introduced a small-group activity for the group. Members talked about the following categories in small groups: leadership and accountability, student experience, hiring and retention, curriculum and instruction, and professional development.

NEXT MEETING

6 p.m., March 11, 2021

Zoom