

Meeting minutes approved 9/10/2020

Diversity and Equity Committee

Winona Area Public Schools

August 5, 2020

The DEC committee met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 5th, 2020 at 4 pm in the Learning Commons of Winona Senior High School. 901 Gilmore Ave., Winona, MN 55987.

**Committee members present:** Dwayne Voegeli, Dawn Lueck, Isaac Matzek, Tova Strange, Tesla Rodriquez, Maurella Cummingham, Jonathan Locust, Karla Winter, Rose Carr, Stacy Cottrell, Drew Althoff, Dave Chapman, Marci Hintz, Sarah Knutsen Alison Quam, Angela McQuinn, and Annette Freiheit.

**Members not present** LaShara Morgan, Amber Mlynczak, David Schulyer, Idellann Larson, John Casper, and Mary Martha Dust.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4pm by Mrs. McQuinn, Chair. An opening quote read to the committee members.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Not completed at this meeting

**ZOOM GUIDELINES**

Committee members engaged in a discussion about the use of polling tools, and raise hand icon on zoom to increase and support member contributions when accessing the meeting via zoom link.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE AND JULY 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

A proposal by members to come back to this item as members were unable to access it. No formal motion to move forward made by members.

**RETURN TO ZOOM GUIDELINES**

A motion to record the meetings made by Stacy, and seconded by Tova passed in a 14-1 vote to approve the use of zoom recording. Karla Winter began recording the meeting following the approved motion.

\*\*Members please be advised that the recorded content of the meeting was not secured. What was saved by the computer was a fragmented version of audio to see [meeting chat](#). Karla and Angela will test the recording feature on Zoom at the beginning of the September meeting, to ensure content is being recorded for future meetings.

### **ROLE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Taking nominations for notetaker/minute keeper and timekeeper for meetings. Dave self-nominated for timekeeper role. Karla self-nominated to be notetaker/minute keeper.

Dwayne motioned for Dave to be timekeeper and Karla to to be notetaker following a process of “skeleton notes” with members adding comments and additional dialogue to notes with an unspecified timeline. Motion was seconded by Rose. Motion failed in 6-6 vote by members.

A second motion by Dawn to have Dave as timekeeper and Karla and Angela using the same structure as the school board to keep notes for the meeting. The motion was approved in a 13-2 vote to approve Dave as timekeeper, Karla, and Angela as notetakers-utilizing the school board meeting minutes structure.

### **CLIMATE COHORT ACTION**

Members asked no additional questions for Joe and Heather, as reported by Chair. Members asked additional questions about the structure of the administration team, Karla clarified that was unknown without more information from Joe.

Dwayne motioned to recommend the climate cohort to the school board, Dave seconded the motion, in a 11-4 vote the motion carried and was approved by members.

Karla and Angela will forward this recommendation for participation in the climate cohort to the board prior to meeting on Wednesday, August 12th, 2020.

### **ROBERT’S RULES**

The chair mentioned movement away from “Bob’s” rules toward more formal parliamentary rules of Robert’s rules was noticed. Motion to study Robert’s rules prior to next meeting to be voted on during the meeting by members. Dave agreed to locate a description of Robert’s rules for committee members.

### **CULTURAL LIAISON DISCUSSION**

Prior to the meeting, the chair sent the following message to members Dwayne, Tova, Maurella, and Marci, as each of these members had brought this discussion forward at a prior meeting. Message sent:

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Tue, Jul 28, 4:59 PM  
(12 days ago)

**Angela McQuinn**

<angela.mcquinn@winona.k12.  
mn.us>

to Dwayne, Maurella,  
Marci, Tova, Karla

Marci, Dwayne, Maurella, and Tova

We are now currently working on constructing the agenda. Added to the agenda will be a discussion about the cultural liaison position in the district.

At one point over the last meetings, each of you has brought up a discussion item regarding the district inquiry into a cultural liaison position. Because we have heard each of you bring this topic to light, we thought we would reach out to you collectively to nominate a spokesperson who would be bringing a discussion to the meeting.

We will have approximately twenty minutes for a discussion on this topic, prior to our breakout groups. What I am asking for, is what is your proposal to frame this discussion at the meeting. What is it that you would like the committee to discuss?

We ask for a nominated spokesperson to facilitate the conversation with members regarding the frame you collectively decide upon. If you could please send me the name of the person who will serve as the spokesperson and the frame of the topic of discussion I will add that to the agenda, as of now the agenda reflects the topic but does not identify the spokesperson or the frame of the discussion.

Thank you for your consideration and input on this topic. We look forward to hearing from you.

Discussion on the topic of a statement, linked to the agenda was led by Tova and Marci. Tesla motioned to committee approve statement with amends made by committee members. Tova seconded the motion.

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Dwayne asked for amendments to motion. After a discussion from members, Telsa did not agree to amendments. Motion failed in a unanimous vote.

Maurella made a second motion to recommend hiring a cultural liaison to the school board and to include the statement as a statement of a subcommittee and not formally approved by committee members, motion was seconded by Tova.

After discussion member Maurella amended the original motion to include selected items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9. Slight revisions to items were added. Tova supported the amended motion. The motion was unanimously approved by members in a 14-0 vote. Marci emailed the amended statement to chair Angela on Friday, August 7th, 2020. Angela responded that she and Karla would send the amended document forward to the board chair and superintendent prior to 12pm on Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 (date of next school board meeting).

### **MOTION TO TABLE REMAINING AGENDA**

Karla made a motion, seconded by Dawn, to table the remaining portion of the agenda and instead look to the committee for additional suggestions to the agenda and then move to end the meeting.

Dwayne asked to amend the motion to include approval of minutes. Karla and Dawn supported the amendments to the motion. Members unanimously approved the motion 14-0 vote.

### **APPROVAL OF JUNE AND JULY MINUTES**

Unanimously approved by previous motion.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER AGENDA (ALSO INCLUDING TABLED AGENDA)**

Suggestions from members included:

1. What is the “plan B” for the equity alliance? This plan was recommended for acceptance by the committee and note supported by the administration team. What is the next plan?
2. Discussion on item # 14 from cultural liaison statement about membership
3. Mandated staff training related to OCR violation, what is the plan for the year?
4. When will building level diversity teams begin?
5. Time of meetings, discussion regarding the start and end time of DEC meetings.

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6. Tabled items included:
  - a. Subcommittee discussion, Tova moved to amend this and no longer include a subcommittee for Our Voices, as the advisor of this group asked for the discussion to no longer occur.
  - b. Subcommittee discussion to include communication & restorative
  - c. Subcommittee share out
  - d. Plan on page statements for student voices & community bridges strategies