

Equity Committee

Wednesday, March 8

Members Present: Mariam Khan, Kevin Shea, David Asbery

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 PM

Additions to the agenda: None

Public comments on information items: Karlen Meinsen

Equity Committee Chair Comments on Public Comment:

The chair brought attention to the disparate use of Zoom public comment amongst subcommittees and reaffirmed the need for an equal standard across the board that is not selective or limited but a norm. Public communication and input is key to such meetings. This was following the Special Equity meeting on January 11, where the Equity Committee Chair brought attention to the importance of public comment as one of the foundations of an ethical and democratic process enabling students, teachers, parents and guardians, and community members to reach the Board.

Information Item 1: HDAC update

Erin Bailey – Invited HDAC to discuss updates on redistricting.

Katie Kieley - Described impact and recent directions of Hamden Diversity Advisory Council (HDAC). HDAC is considering the sister school model for school integration by researching successful models for integration across the state and meeting with the Connecticut Department of Education.

Elizabeth Caldwell: Described impacts of sister school model including staffing consolidation and shared experiences for grade levels.

Katie Kieley – Evaluated attendance zones to consider the sister school model logistics and are also looking into universal preschool options.

David Asbery – Asked how parents are being contacted.

Katie Kieley – Parents have not yet been contacted but modes of communication are being discussed.

Mariam Khan – Research is critical and each integration model will have advantages and disadvantages, and cannot be fully decided in a one-hour meeting. Additionally, prior redistricting meeting was not broadcast on Zoom for community members to watch.

David Asbery – Parent outreach is critical and redistricting options should be made known to the public.

Mariam Khan – Surveys cannot replace community canvassing, school visits, or direct outreach.

Adjourn: 7:09 PM
Motion: Kevin Shea
Second: David Asbery