Planning Meeting of the Equity Council Committee

Minutes

10/20/2026

450 Park Place

Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Meeting Location: Virtual

6:30 PM

"The Mission of the Equity Council is to monitor and analyze equity issues, advise the Fayette County Board of Education and advocate for achievement for ALL students."

EQUITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Appointed Thru December 2026	Elected Thru December 2027
Dr. Allison Ellis (Chair Tyler Murphy)	**Camisha Boyd-Powell** (Chair)
Dr. Rania Belmadani (Amy Green)	**Shiretha Chantal**
Trace Williams (Penny Christian)(Vice Chair)	**Jeanette Hart**
Scott Horn (Monica Mundy)	**Ryessia Russell**
Norma Justice (Amanda Ferguson)	Emmanuel Smith
	Calizza Farrell

I. **Routine Matters:** Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM, Dr. Matthews advised Gemini Notetaker was being used to assist as a backup too for the virtual meeting.
   a. Roll Call: Shiretha Dunn
   b. Reading of Mission Statement: Scott Horn
   c. Acknowledgment of **Guiding Principles**
   d. Welcome of guests
   e. Public Participation/Comment(s)

II. **Action Items**
   a. Approval of Agenda: Jeanette Hart motioned to amend the agenda to move Justin Royal's presentation to the beginning of the discussion (item 3A), seconded by Ryessia Jones. Motion carried unanimously.
   b. Approval of Minutes: Council reviewed and identified one error indicating September minutes were not approved when they actually were approved with amendments. Calizza Farrell inquired about documenting late arrivals for attendance percentage tracking in bylaws. Discussion by Camisha Boyd Powell and members on documenting late arrivals in the minutes. Jeanette Hart moved to approved the amended minutes, a member seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Discussion Items

a. Presentation from Justin Royal: Justin Royal, a Fayette County Public Schools teacher presented on the historical roots of achievement gaps and their connection to slaveholders. Mr. Royal argued systemic inequities, disproportionate suspension rates and persistent achievement gaps stem from foundational histories that Mr. Royal believes are often not taught accurately. Mr. Royal expressed concern about lack of representation in education and noting that black males make up 4% of teachers in Kentucky. Mr. Royal shared his perspectives on past efforts to re-name schools. Royal and Jeanette Hart exchanged thoughts about historical contexts with regards to the naming of schools. Ms. Hart also noted that alumni opposition, neighborhood demographics in the 40502 zip code and local politics heavily dictate whether renaming occurs. Discussion continued with a reflection on the school naming committee, a proposal for a public service announcement to educate the public on the history behind school names with Jeanette Hart.

b. Superintendent search listening session

c. George Washington Carver Conversation

d. Right Size, Bright Future Taskforce Update

e. Subcommittee Reports/Presentations

IV. Other Communication

a. Announcements:

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned due to the loss of quorum.