

school-community relations

Education Equity Excellence Committee

Purpose

The Board of Education's goal is to provide an educational system that meets the needs of all students and leads to the attainment of educational excellence by all students, including students of diverse backgrounds. The Board recognizes that educational excellence and equity require open channels of communication with the community. The Board believes the District will be most successful when the community is aware of and understands the District's efforts and goals. The purpose of the Education Equity Excellence (EEE) Committee is to foster a climate of equal opportunity, educational excellence and success for all students. Additionally, the committee will foster two-way communication and collaboration between the District and its stakeholders.

Composition

The Committee shall be comprised of District representatives, Union representatives and a diverse cross-section of the community that reflects the District's student enrollment. Membership shall include:

- One member of the Board of Education and an alternate
- The Superintendent and two other central office administrators
- One principal and an alternate
- A CFT representative with an alternate named by CFT
- At least 5 (no more than 10) members of the community

Community members may include parents or guardians of current District students, representatives of community organizations that address equity or education issues, or individuals who will assist the district in achieving the committee's purposes. Members must have their primary residence within the School District.

Community members who are interested in serving on the committee should apply to be appointed a member of the committee. An application form will need to be submitted, and the forms are available from the Superintendent's office. Applications shall be made in writing, addressed to the Superintendent and shall state the name of the applicant, any professional affiliations the applicant may have and a description as to why the applicant wishes to be a member of the Committee, including any expertise the applicant may bring to the Committee. The Superintendent shall make a recommendation to the Board of Education regarding Committee membership. Committee members shall serve two year terms, and may serve consecutive terms. No Committee member, except the Superintendent and Central Office Administrators shall serve more than six consecutive years on the committee. To allow for staggered terms, approximately half of the initial members shall be appointed for three year terms, as designated by the Superintendent. The Board of Education shall vote to determine final Committee membership.

Should a community member position on the EEE Committee become vacant, the Superintendent shall announce a period of 30 days for community members to apply for service on the Committee. All vacancies whether of a community member or other member must be filled by Board vote within 60 days of the vacancy. Any Committee member appointed to fill a vacancy will serve out the balance of the

term, and if they are appointed for a period of less than one-half of the original term, they shall be eligible to serve for three more terms. If their appointment is for a period of more than one-half of the original term, they shall only be eligible for two more terms.

Meeting Frequency

The Committee shall meet two times per semester. The Committee meetings will be open to the public and follow the Open Meetings Act. At the first meeting of the Committee, the Committee members shall establish meeting norms, a meeting calendar, and a process for selecting agenda items. The duration of the meetings will not exceed two hours.

For at least the 2009-2010 school year, the meetings shall be facilitated by a third party who is familiar with the District and community.

Meeting Subjects

At its meetings, the EEE will review and discuss the following equity areas:

- academic progress of regular education, special education, gifted, AP/Honors, Academic Academy and alternative students;
- special education, including referral, identification, assignment, review and dismissal of students;
- attendance rates;
- discipline rates;
- graduation rates.

The Committee will review data disaggregated by race/ethnicity and SES. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide a public report twice a year (mid-year report and end of year report) on these equity areas to the EEE. The dates for these bi-annual reports will be established at the first EEE meeting. Minutes of each meeting, including, Committee recommendations, will be shared with the Board and the public.

For the 2009-2010 school year, the District shall provide reports twice a year on special education, including referral, identification, assignment, review and dismissal of special education students to the EEE.

The Superintendent shall present reports on the EEE Committee to the Board of Education during a Board meeting two times each academic year.

Task Forces and Focus Groups

The Committee shall establish Task Forces on the equity areas as it deems appropriate. As each Task Force is established, the Committee shall define the Task Force's scope and purpose. The administration will collect student input on equity issues through focus groups held at least once each semester.

