



**SARASOTA  
County Schools**

**Department of Innovation & Equity  
Office of the Superintendent**  
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**Equity Committee Meeting  
December 15, 2021**

**Meeting Attendees:** Bill Nease, Ashley Cota', Rhana Banzlhi, Mickey Stone, Carol Miller, Dr. Jim Minor, Linda Daniels, Lisa Ramirez, Nora Mitchell, Dr. Wendy Katz, Trevor Harvey, Bill Woodson, Dr. Harriet Moore

**Meeting started at 5:38 PM.**

**Dr. Asplen was at a special event at a school and was unable to attend. He replayed a message to Dr. Moore. Thanks for the continued support to the committee. Dr. Moore feels that the last School Board meeting went better than prior ones and members of the public came up and spoke in a nicer manner.**

**Equity policy is out for public view.**

**There have been concerns over an incident that happened between 2 Sarasota County students. Continued support is needed for these families and staff. There is a discipline team being formed for schools that need more support for discipline items.**

**Looking for volunteers:**

- **Mentoring**
- **Reading with children**
- **Whatever the schools need**
- **High schoolers to work and volunteer with struggling students.**

**At a particular school, there have been a few members that have died. Two staff members and one student.**

**Concerns & Suggestions have been brought to Dr. Moore by concerned parents:**

- **ESE concerns – Dr. Moore will send out the list received from a few community members. Some of the concerns regard inclusion, careers, class choice, recognize achievement, clubs etc. for ESE students.**
- **There are not enough bodies to offer more plans and lesson case load for the current teachers that work with ESE students.**

**All landings administrators and Dr. Moore are to review this list.**

**Comment from Committee members state that this is the same views a lot of ESE teachers have.**

**We need to figure out how to encourage issues to go to the school level first. It seems members of the community and parents are by passing the administrative staff at their child's school and taking their concerns directly to the Superintendent's office.**





We will start looking at the data to hold district accountable for enrollment in advanced and level 3 courses for minority students, etc. We will work on the demographic data based on location and schools.

Some committee members are worried about an influx of false/exaggerated reports against diversity and race. What will we do to handle that?

Dr. Moore reiterated that our policy is for ALL, no one is left out.

Committee Members suggested to release a chain of command to have handy for committee members as well as post on the website in terms of who to contact with various concerns, or issues. This way, all are on the same page as to whom to bring issues/concerns to. Suggested to also have a section in the student handbook on how and where to file complaints.

A committee member had suggested that ELL students were placed or not placed accordingly. A discrepancy was found in the numbers they submitted and the actual numbers at STI for overaged students, or students that were not English speakers.

The district is currently in negotiations for increased salary for SSP4's to make the classified Aide position more attractive to prospective employees.

Suggestions of having an Equity Instagram account for reporting equity issues. Also was suggested to have a physical box for students and staff to submit an anonymous form at school sites and departments.

One of the students suggested that student Reps for the Equity Committee need to be more public about the committee on schools so students know they can reach out to our them with their concerns on the school site.

Dr. Moore is working on connecting with the Principals at the HS that we do not have Reps at. Dr. Moore would like to have two students from each high school.

When replacing a member on the committee we need to ensure that the Equity Committee is representative of the demographics, as much as possible, of our community and schools.

There was a suggestion to develop a FAQ to help the committee and staff answer questions that arise regarding the equity committee's purpose and function. That way there is no misinformation.

There is a potential event on 1/10/2022 at 6 pm at the Robert Taylor complex for that area. This is to offer support and other items to members in that area. There will be district staff there in addition to outside members of the community that can help families in need. This event was postponed.

