

Manchester Public Schools
Board of Education
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee
Minutes
December 9, 2020

The virtual meeting began at 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Emily Luna, Peter Meggers, Tracy Patterson

Community Members Present: Angela Bellas, Maria Cruz, Linda Harris, Dana McDonald, Keren Prescott, Teresa Quintana

Staff Members Present: Matt Geary, Diane Kearney, Sophia Krisch, Jessica Pepin

Dr. Kearney welcomed all those in attendance.

She reviewed the Board of Education resolution that created the committee and the work to date of the MPS Office of Equity.

Community Members and Board members then shared their thoughts on the following questions:

- What role do you play in the community?
- What do you want to see for your community?
- Who's your audience?
- How can we support each other?
- If you do have concern about a community member, how can we help?

The major themes of the discussion centered on the following:

- Understanding the difference between equity and equality
- Acknowledging and appreciating the cultural differences within the Black and Latino communities
- Need to empower those from marginalized communities
- Need to consistently communicate in multiple languages
- Importance of supporting each other and working together on any concerns.
- Work is not about fighting; it is about educating, accessing and encouraging individuals
- Significant issues beyond education (including economic and health issues, homelessness, food and nutrition mental health) need to be addressed
- Pandemic taking the hardest toll on members of the community that have limited resources
- Significant concern for families who are undocumented who do not have access
- Talking is important but action is required at the systemic level

Dr. Kearney shared her contact information and the contact information for Mr. Geary and the schedule for the meetings for 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Geary