



Commission for Diversity & Inclusion

Youth & Education – Family Units Working Committee

ACTION LETTER

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Call to Order 7:30 pm

Roll Call

Members Present

Commissioner Sharon Ivy/Chair

Commissioner Rachel Courtney/Co-Chair

Staff

Stacy Lombardo

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Courtney, seconded by Commissioner Ivy, to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by a unanimous 2-0 vote (Commissioner Martin "Absent").

4. Approval of the February 16, 2022 Action Letter

A motion was made by Commissioner Courtney, seconded by Commissioner Ivy, to approve the February 16, 2022 Action Letter. The motion carried by a unanimous 2-0 vote (Commissioner Martin "Absent").

5. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

6. Diversity and Inclusion discussion with Kari Harrison, Ed. D., Principal, Lee's Summit High School

This item was discussed.

7. Planning for future stakeholder meetings

This item was discussed.

8. Roundtable

Committee members thanked Ms. Harrison for attending tonight's meeting and sharing information regarding Lee's Summit High School.

There being no further business, Chairperson Ivy adjourned the February 23, 2022 Youth and Education – Family Units Working Committee meeting at 9:02 pm.

Adjourned: 9:02 pm



Commission for Diversity & Inclusion

Youth and Education-Family Units Working Committee

*Committee Report to the Commission
February 23, 2022*

Committee Members

Sharon Ivy, Chair
Rachel Courtney, Co-Chair
Ben Martin, Member

(Date, Time, and Location of Committee Meeting)

February 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Attendance at Committee Meeting(s) since Last Report

Sharon Ivy, Rachel Courtney and guest Kari Harrison, Principal at LSHS
Member Ben Martin was absent

Narrative

The Committee learned about specific initiatives Lee's Summit High School is putting in place to advance diversity and inclusion in the student body and with the staff.

Meeting Focus

- Focus on equity at schools and building inclusion
- Principal ensures that staff had a professional development plan which included diversity and inclusion
- Teachers hosting candid conversation sessions regularly amongst the staff
- The school has opened the lines of communication so that the students can be heard by the teachers and students know what teachers are doing to learn about diversity and inclusion
- Students have led some initiatives to bring in speakers, such as through the Black Student Union
- Principal has set up an advisory board consisting of appx. 75 students who share what is and isn't working at the school and ensure that communication is open
- There is a teacher advisory council of 10-15 teachers who are passionate about diversity and inclusion and well-versed in a number of areas.
- A challenge advancing diversity and education can be seen in how legislation and politics is impacting what is being taught in the schools
- There is not a culture of discussion and learning from both sides of an issues; students seem to be polarized where everyone is right or wrong
- The school would like to have more diversity in the teaching staff

Agenda Meeting Focus

- Gain a better understanding of the learning environment and what's happening with our teens in high school.
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Accomplishments

- Identified additional resources to connect with: Shelly Sanders, Executive Director of Equity for the district
- Teachers at LSHS may also be additional resources

Recommendations to the Commission (if any)

Recommendations

- Flagging a consistent concern with how to attract and hire more diverse staff. This should be cataloged and addressed in future recommendations.
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Commission actions needed (if any)

Actions Needed

- None at this time
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