

Equity & Social Justice Committee
Thursday, April 8, 2021 6:00 PM

Harlem High School, Main Commons, One
Huskie Circle, Machesney Park, IL 61115
One Huskie Circle
Machesney Park, IL 61115

Agenda

1. Call to Order by Evelyn Meeks, Co-Chair at 6:00PM
2. Roll call-Committee Members present-(list members)

Evelyn Meeks, Michael Sterling, Sue Berogan, Jill Berogan, Sharon Ranieri, Dr. Flanagan, Dr. Bois, Brad Sweet, Andrea Sweet, Elana Shelling-Tufte, Kim Brandt, Brock Morlan, Kaila Matthys, Jennifer Curless, Denise Campbell, Dana Rosenquist, Nick Strange, Krya Newnam,

3. Approve Committee minutes of March 4, 2021

Motion to approve minutes from Equity & Social Justice Committee minutes: March 4, 2021

1st Sue Berogan

2nd Brad Sweet

All voted aye, motion carried

4. Comments from the Community
5. Student presentations

Student presentation were given by Kaitlyn, Tatyana, and Olivia. The students talked about their experiences at Harlem High School. Tatyana remembers when she first got to the high school. She noticed that there weren't many teachers of color at the high school. One of Tatyana's most enjoyable time was in elementary when it was learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She wishes that there was more taught on Black History when she was going through school.

Student Olivia said that coming to the high school as a Freshman has been an eye opener. If she knew that "being different" was ok in her younger years she wouldn't have had to worry about who she is now. She feels more supported being at the high school. Students need to be educated about it's ok not being normal. She also mentions that she felt like you needed to pick sides-like if you were not white enough or black enough for your peers, being bi-racial is tough.

Evelyn Meeks: She is proud of how the district is changing to support our Culturally and Diverse community. She is proud to be a part of the Harlem School District

Mike Sterling acknowledge how students are speaking up about how and when they see equity is not there. Likes to see that students' voices are being heard.

Teachers and other staff members that attended the meeting were expressing their experiences within their classroom on equity, race and speaking their truth. Comments were also expressed during the meeting: How we need to education our parents and students in accepting change; there needs to be more support for Gender Identity population, homophobia is still a concern.

Teachers asked if there are more resources like, books by black authors, that they could acquire to help in their classroom to increase awareness with injustices. Finding these resources has been tough. Also having Racial Equity books would be a great benefit to students and a great tool for teacher to start that conversation with.

There was great discuss on how to incorporate what we teach and model that teaching. We need to value our learner and honor what they bring.

“It doesn’t take much to start that change” Dr. Michael Flanagan, to close the meeting.

6. Motion to Adjourn

1st Brad Sweet

2nd Elana Schelling-Tufte

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Cook, Recording Secretary