

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee

Thursday, December 5, 2024

2023-2028 Agency Goals

#1 – Creating a high-quality learning experience for all

#2 – Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

#3 – Building a culturally responsive workforce

MESD Board Equity Lens-<https://www.multnomahesd.org/board-equity.html>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024 by Committee Chair Anderson.

□ CALL TO ORDER

Present: Renee Anderson, Committee Chair
Denyse Peterson, Board member
Helen Ying, Board member

Absent: None

Administration: Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Heather Severns, Board Secretary
Reiko Williams, Director of Regional Equity Initiatives and Partnerships

Guests: None

1. Review notes from the October 3 meeting- The committee approved the minutes from the October 3 meeting.

2. Update on how we are doing with the Equity in Contracting Policy.

Presenter: Dr. Reiko Williams, Director of Regional Equity Initiatives and Partnerships

- Survey Results on Equity in Contracting:
 - Awareness: 75% of MESD administrators are aware of the diverse vendor policy.
 - Vendor Engagement: 50% of administrators have contracted with at least one vendor of color.
 - Vendor Certification Awareness: 50% of staff are unsure if their vendors are certified as MWESB (Minority, Women, Emerging Small Business).
- Training and Resources:
 - Training for purchasing card users now emphasizes intentionality in purchasing from diverse vendors.
 - A copy of the updated training will be shared with the Board.
 - An internal diverse vendor list has been established and distributed, accompanied by links to diverse business directories available on the MESD website.

- Challenges:
 - Identifying diverse vendors, as many are not certified MWESBs.
 - A new data collection tool aligns with MESD's applicant attestation system to identify vendor diversity (race, gender, veteran status).
- Contract Analysis (2024-2025):
 - Contracts Reviewed: 161 contracts and MOUs across 131 agencies.
 - Diversity Representation: Approximately 19% of agencies are known diverse vendors.
 - Geographic Spread: 16 states represented, with a majority being Oregon-based.
 - Vendor Types: Staffing agencies, independent contractors, tech support, local nonprofits, photographers, educational institutions, and more.
- Family Survey: MESD is conducting a survey to identify potential diverse vendors within the family community.

2. Board Member Feedback

Board Member Helen Ying:

- Requested the Equity in Contracting presentation be shared at the December Board meeting and updated annually in September.
- Suggested focusing on regional data instead of statewide data to better inform MESD's initiatives.

Assistant Superintendent Perrins:

- Will confirm if regional data is already available and consolidate it if necessary.
- Clarified MESD's role in supporting districts without dictating specific instructional practices.

3. Student Attendance and Performance

Discussion Points:

- Student Performance: Board member Ying expressed concerns about stagnating student progress.
- Attendance at Helensview:
 - Noted a significant attendance drop from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024.
 - Perrins explained attendance trends, including student transitions between Helensview and home districts.
 - Therapeutic classroom attendance may require different tracking methods.
 - Perrins will investigate further and provide updates.

4. Bullying and Harassment Reporting

Committee Chair Anderson:

- Inquired about the accessibility and clarity of MESD's complaint reporting process.

- Assistant Superintendent Perrins:
 - Highlighted compliance with new Title IX requirements focused on sexual harassment reporting.
 - Confirmed an accessible complaint process is available on the MESD website.
 - Risk Manager Jelena Doney has trained principals to ensure compliance.
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Next Steps

- Present the requested data on regional districts at the next meeting.
 - Continue refining Equity in Contracting initiatives and share progress.
 - Investigate Helensview attendance trends and report findings.
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2. A survey will be sent to determine an alternative date due to the winter break.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned 1:35p.m. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for January 2, this is still winter break. A survey will be sent out to select an alternative date.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary