Equity Committee Meeting
Eugene Public Schools District 4J
Virtually, Zoom Meeting

January 14th, 2021
4:30 pm

PRESENT: Bao Adam, Betsy Boyd, Gary Campbell, Ann Cole, Laura Dahill, Maya Rabasa, Eric Richardson, Edward Olivos, Thomas Anil Oommen, Members; Judy Newman, Anne Marie Levis, Board Members; Cydney Vandercar, Misael Flores Gutierrez, David Jacobson, Jeff Johnson, Kat Lange, Leila Schuck, Charis McGaughy, Karen Hardin, Oscar Loureiro, David Pierpoint, staff.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Flores Gutierrez called the meeting to order and went over the schedule for this meeting. There were presentations on All Students Belong and the Student Investment Account to happen.

II. All Students Belong Update

Ms. Levis began presenting on the All Students Belong progress. She gave an update that the team had met in December, and the “North Star” for this work group was to ensure a more equitable outcome for all students. One of the main goals for the school board is to reorient discipline towards transformative actions, and reduce and eliminate disproportionate harm towards students of color and students of the LGBTQ+ community.

The next step is to look for a facilitator to form this task force for the future. Ms. Newman then spoke about looking at recommendations on interviews and board meetings to choose this facilitator happening next. The goal with these updates is to keep the Equity Committee up to date on what is happening in real time.

III. Student Investment Account Updates

Ms. McGaughy began speaking on the overview of the Student Investment Account and the legislature that happened that lead to this.

Ms. Lange then spoke about inclusion of students who are underrepresented through this investment and the following initiatives. Universal Design for Learning is how 4J looks at frameworks and engagements, and this investment account focuses on including underrepresented students within it.

Mr. Flores Gutierrez then spoke about English Language Learners and how to improve resources for these students through increased FTE and better student to teacher ratios to allow for increased communication between departments.

Mr. Johnson then talked about the third grade reading portion of the SIA. He first spoke about the amount of funding that they had initially had for this project, and how they are now trying to frontload the funding they do have to improve reading instruction and bringing in reading material that is culturally rich and at their grade level. They have added 2 FTE as well, one of them being an early reading TOSA.

Ms. McGaughy spoke about the large bond that the community voted on, and how a portion of this would be going toward curriculum adoption. She then asked Ms. Lange to speak on the behavior framework.

Ms. Lange laid out the framework plan for increased behavior resources, and the district's plan to increase school FTE counselor support as well as a suicide prevention specialist, a threat assessment specialist, and mental health specialists.

Mr. Flores Gutierrez then spoke about food and supply portions of the SIA for family support in the community. On the mental health piece, a social worker who is bicultural was hired exclusively for the district.

Ms. McGaughy then spoke about how other grants would be going to other things such as class sizes. She then turned the conversation to the Equity Committee to provide some feedback.

Ms. Boyd commented that she loved the breakdown and sense of purpose in everyone's voice when they spoke and expressed her excitement.

This was echoed by the committee, and they all expressed their excitement, and that this is a framework that would allow the district to ground themselves.

Ms. Rabasa then added that she did not hear anything referencing anti racist efforts and that this is an important piece of this framework. She asked if this training would happen.

This was answered saying that Mr. Flores Gutierrez was to have a training on this equity lens and that there needs to be a more systematic solution.

Ms. Rabasa then added that the committee had been presented with an equity lens.

Ms. McGaughy then closed this agenda item and had the public commenter speak. She then asked if there were any other comments to please email them to her.

IV. Closing Updates and Public Comment

Public speaker, Rico Perez, then began to speak. He asked what was the committee's definition on the equity lens.

The next Equity Committee meeting would be on the 11th of February.

The meeting was then closed at 6:30 pm.

(Minutes recorded by Alex Sullivan)