

Committee of the Whole Minutes
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:30 PM

Harlem Administration Center
8605 North Second St
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

Equity MINUTES

7. **EQUITY:** (Approximately 60 minutes) Began at 4:50 p.m.

Administrator: Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

7.A. Roll Call: Evelyn Meeks, Jason Blume, Terrell Yarbrough, Kris Arduino,

Union: Elana-Schelling-Tufte/designee

E Team members:

Loves Park – Mike Valentine

Machesney

Maple – Emily Bjork

Marquette – Brock Morlan

Olson Park – Marya Nelson

Parker Center – Becky Swenson

Ralston – Holly Perino

Rock Cut – Ryan Reinecke

Windsor – Terese Marinelli

High School – Dr. Jeremy Bois

Middle School – Nicole Bellini

7.B. Meeting Minutes Consensus: January 8, 2025

All aye

7.C. Public Comments (if any) None

7.D. Agenda Items

7.D.1. February Equity Theme: Equity vs. Equality

Terese and Dana presenting

Four sessions were held in October with staff. Definitions were given for Equity vs.

Equality and an understanding on how they apply to the school as well as our lives.

Equality is the idea that everyone is given the same resources and opportunities to thrive.

Equity recognizes that everyone is not the same and resources are made for individual needs

Equality video was shown – Diversity means differences in all respects

Equality is fairness

Equity is based in access and opportunity

Equality vs. Equity Comparison was shown with three kids watching a football game standing at a fence

Equity is a process and continuance

Equity requires power and resources

Equity is hard but key to making changes

Participants were asked about the graphic in the video as the graphic is shown in the schools realizing that many people do not really understand the difference between Equity and Equality. – Providing fairness by treating everyone the same

Equity - Providing fairness by addressing individual needs

Jason Blume gave his personal perspective

Terrell noted it is important to hold events to read aloud to classrooms for kids to see this

Audience participant brought up her perspective and bringing more into the buildings as we do with Golden Apple grants that are received

Scenarios were discussed –

An exercise was conducted to show examples of the differences between equity and equality.

Presenter: Windsor Elementary staff

7.D.2. Building Equity Highlights

Loves Park – Awareness Month – looked at different themes and developed activities

“Everybody Thought” – A book that classes read and then did activities and group reflections on their different perceptions.

Machesney

Maple – Social Emotion learning activities to be aware to be our best selves

Marquette – talked about paying attention to people around you with an activity to see what each other has in common and which things are not

Olson Park – classrooms made lanterns

Parker Center – Equity team did a candle fundraiser and bought books i.e. “I live with Down Syndrome” and others, to show differences. They also did a Black History display at the front entrance

Ralston – January theme of engagement and included it in the word of the week with presentations by third grade students and students making sentences with the word engagement in them and then read over the loudspeaker

Rock Cut – Zion is a 4th grade student with an IEP, recommended to be placed a therapeutic day and then moved here instead and we took time to get to know the parents and student and gain their trust to work together, and his iReady was at 175% in math and 35% in reading

“Be curious, not judgmental” by Walt Whitman

Windsor – Difference not Deficit – speech language pathologists met with them to discuss what the report would sound like to families as students with African American English speech difference was lower than others that used standard English, they discussed how to

score these things to be equitable. Some assessments recognize AVE but they do not account for it.

High School – Black History Month board was done, January 17 had Dr. Junco come and presented to staff all day on a sense of belonging. Added weekly E team meetings to help support each other and a formal E Team meeting each month, multi-cultural activities to promote kindness. Buddy basketball was held for kids that would play on the special Olympics team and it is a cool event and a great community event. Buddy Dance is Friday night.

Middle School – trying to take work from the E Team and bring to the whole staff. We give the presentations on the themes at faculty meetings for staff, Student Equity Team is working on the 4 agreements, 6 conditions and understanding the compass and facilitating conversations amongst themselves.

Kindness week starts tomorrow with a special Olympics presenter for staff

8. Next Meeting Date: March 12, 2025
 - i. Topic: Community
 - ii. Presenter: Loves Park Elementary Staff
9. Adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Kris Arduino