

Committee of the Whole  
EQUITY MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025 4:30 PM

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

## **EQUITY MINUTES**

**EQUITY:** (Approximately 60 minutes) *Began at 4:36 p.m.*

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

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

Union: (Shayna Walenga)

E Team members:

Loves Park – Mike Valentine

Machesney- Abbi Edwards

Maple – Emily Bork

Marquette Brad Kolar

Olson Park – Marya Nelson

Parker Center Becky Swenson

Ralston – Scott Rollinson

Rock Cut – Gloria Martinez

Windsor – Terese Marinelli

High School – Jeremy Bois

Middle School – Jen Curless

7.B. Meeting Minutes Consensus: April 9, 2025

Consensus reached

7.C. Public Comments (if any) none

7.D. Agenda Items:

7.D.1. Building Equity Highlights

Harlem Middle School – Associate Principal Jen Curless presenting

Last SIP day had a presentation on empathy interviews which ties into the SIP goals and priorities with families and students interactions. It should deepen an understanding of students and families. There are many questions that can be used to better understand families and students and building partnerships between school and home. Goal is for understanding and not really fixing it.

Parker Center – Assistant Principal Becky Swenson

Making sure students feel included and we are using the Core board on the Playground and students talking to each other about how this can be used with friends and making them feel

more of a belonging and staff feelings as well, A great way to support students with feels.  
SIP Goal Priority 4

Maple – Assistant Principal Emily Bork

Reflected on SIP goals with attendance a focus. We have incentivized positive influence. We are looking at different groups and where attendance is seen in this group to come up with more interventions.

Trends have improved as well at Maple.

Rock Cut – Assistant Principal Gloria Martinez

Discipline referrals decreasing and getting students on grade level by using presenters and STEM activities. The kids love these activities, Rockford Barbell comes to school with PTO paying for this and it is great activity and we are reviewing their physical fitness. We are focusing on high or low kids to introduce to Rockford Barbell. The social worker at Maple started this.

Ralston – Principal Scott Rollinson presenting

Equity Goal # 2 – small E team asked for more time to sit with each other and create lessons for SEL time so that all staff in all grades will have these resources. Equity vs. Equality is one of these.

Marquette – Assistant Principal Brad Kolar presenting

Focus was on priority number 4 improving staff belonging and teacher collaboration. There is a great culture at Marquette, We do feather Friday and have a very active Facebook page. We highlight what teachers are doing in class as well as other staff members. We had staff dress up as the 90's. We also did a walk on Teacher Appreciation week and did a circle shape and staff walked through grades of kids shouting and cheering. We themed SIP day on Woodstock throwback and the show and tell part 1 and 2 we just wanted time to sit with staff to see what they want and was very productive showcasing each room.

Machesney Elementary – Principal Abbi Edwards presenting

Priority 3 is Build School Community and focusing on students building relationships and including everyone in activities to be more inclusive. Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated. We also had a celebration of the arts and we will have a community day with classes creating activities, set up and work for a third and the rest is free play. They will also tear down with families invited in as well. We are inviting all of our families to come in and create a mosaic on one of the front area walls.

Loves Park – Goal 4 increase family and staff involvement in school community events and activities as measured by attendance and participation throughout the year. Had donuts with grownups, family literacy night and professional dress up day for principal dress up.

Windsor – Assistant Principal Terese Marinelli, Priority 4 create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment for students and staff Inclusion vs exposure to make sure STP students are engaged in lessons and small group lessons. We opened up the room to give everyone ideas on what teachers are doing and will use next year.

Harlem High School Priority # 2, develop and engage in building-wide practices to increase student and staff community engagement and feeling a sense of belonging to support learning.

We had one student in all three events and qualified for State in special Olympics. He was outstanding student in his specialized program as well for Senior Awards. Special Olympics has always had good numbers but we now have a special Olympics coach and they are now included as all other programs. We had 5 state qualifiers. Senior awards was 111 for graduating seniors and we recognized every scholarship and the same with specialized programs.

We had close to two million dollars awarded in scholarships for all area of academics. We added five foreign exchange students, a blanket with the American Flag in the Huskie logo and presented those to them. Germany (2) Brazil (1) Italy (1) and Belgium (1).

Seal of Biliteracy and Bpac celebration was wonderful Ana Luisa noted that students who show proficiency are awarded the Seal of Biliteracy since 2019 but we have a student from Bosnia this year. A couple of students are also studying abroad as well.

7.D.2. 2025-2026 Equity Monthly Themes – will come next month to discuss themes to the DELT meeting first and then June Equity

Olson Park – Principal Marya Nelson presenting

Focus on collaboration and staff belonging is a focus Priority 4 Staff shirts, monthly potlucks team building activities on SIP day, staff shout out notebook, dress up days, staff bingo throughout the day, fun shine committee has come up with many staff activities.

Terrell noted that everyone did an excellent job on putting the slides together and how equity is impacting and embedded throughout. The picture is from the teacher signing event with Elana Schelling-Tufte hugging the student who is going into education.

*7.E. Adjourned Equity meeting at 5:04 p.m.*

*Minutes taken by Kris Arduino*