



ELEVATING VOICES: CREATING NEW SPACES

BLACK EXCELLENCE TEACHING
IN OAK PARK (BETOP)
COMMITTEE

JANUARY, 30 2024
D97 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

What's our big idea?



Meet the Black Excellence Teaching in Oak Park (BETOP) Committee

Ashley Kannan , Julian Middle School

Charlee Moss, Holmes Elementary School

**Arnetta Thompson, Lincoln & Longfellow Elementary
Schools***

Dr. Mekita Whitfield, Julian Middle School

Dr. Denise Gildon, Brooks Middle School

Nicole Pryor, Mann Elementary School

Rasheedah Williams, Hatch Elementary School

Nicole Braswell, Whittier Elementary School

Erin P. Woodson, Beye Elementary School

Kristine Ashford, Holmes Elementary School

Mohogany Williams, Irving Elementary School

Bianca Taylor, Longfellow Elementary School

Lauren Robinzine, Brooks Middle School

Roshaun Bowens, Brooks Middle School

Tequila Butler, Julian Middle School

Kendra Simmons, Irving Elementary School

Amy Jefferson, Principal of Longfellow

**Patrick Robinson, Assistant Superintendent of
Elementary Schools***

Dr. Eboney Lofton, Chief Learning Innovation Officer*



Overview

January 2024

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OUR JOURNEY

02

BIG IDEAS FOR BETOP

03

WHY NOW

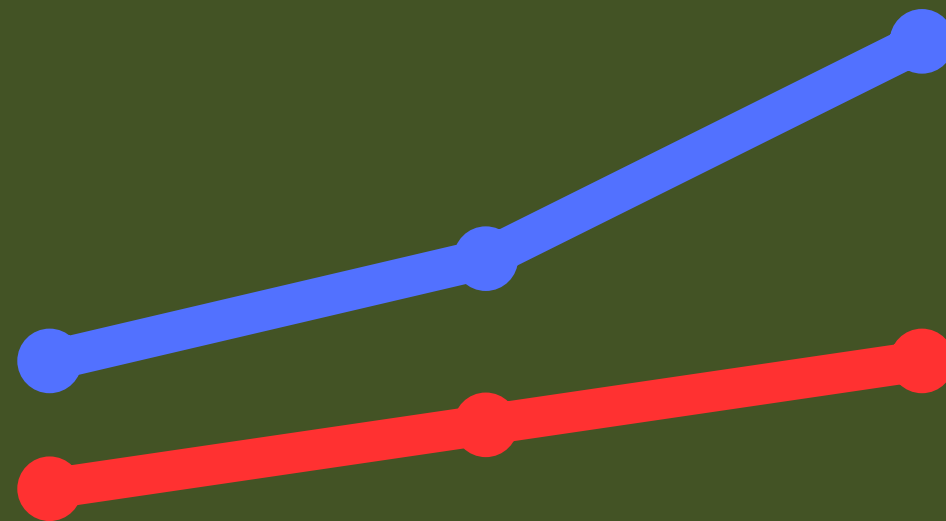
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DESIGNING NEW SPACES

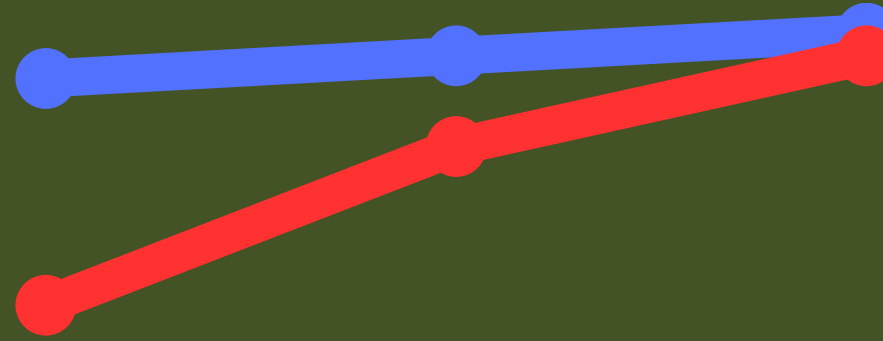
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CELEBRATIONS & NEXT STEPS

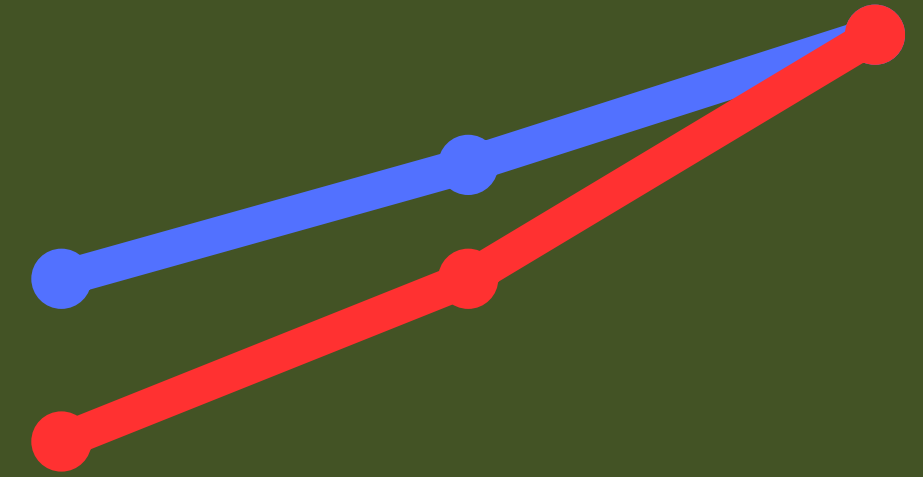
Excellence
without Equity



Equity
without Excellence



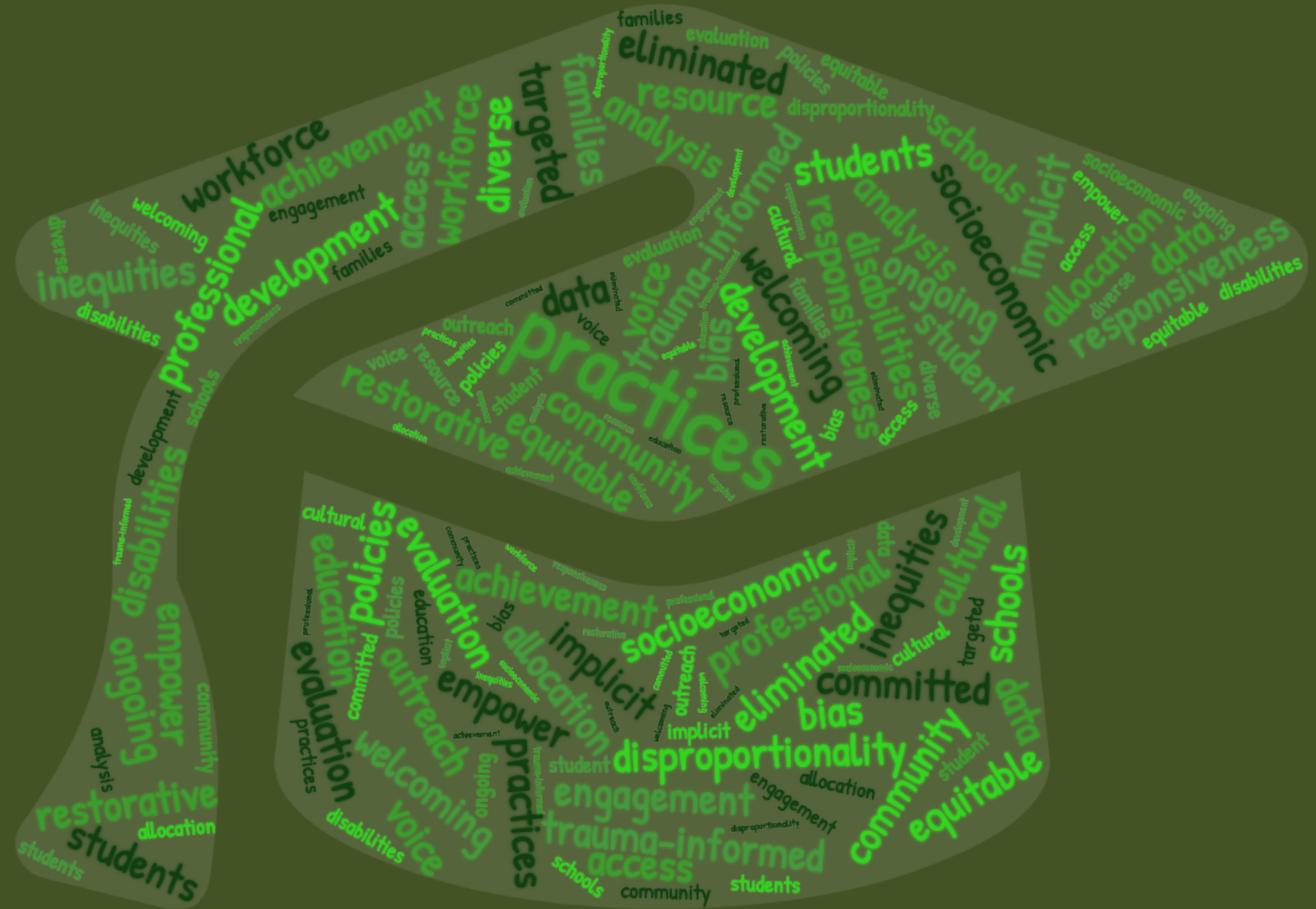
Excellence
with Equity



What is required to achieve **excellence with equity**?

OUR JOURNEY

We believe that
District 97 *must*
respond to what our
data and our equity
policy require.





What is the role of a BETOP committee member?

- Elevate the voices of Black students, families and staff in our schools
- Design circles/town halls/meetings focused on listening
- Synthesize and share insights with key stakeholders, especially the school's Building Leadership Team charged with drafting and executing the school improvement plan
- Meet with BETOP colleagues across the district to share professional practices
- Support alignment within the school and across schools through collaboration with principals



Why BETOP? Why now?

Our Equity Imperative

Our Equity Policy in section D, states, “District 97 cannot achieve equity without effective, robust stakeholder engagement. Student and family voice, along with teachers, staff, and other community stakeholders, shall play a prominent role in implementing this policy.”

The district has consistently (and correctly) been asked about our strategies for ensuring that Black students are meeting our excellence targets and experience a sense of belonging in our schools.

Our Black students are reporting that they are not experiencing a strong sense of belonging in our schools, nor receiving access to equitable educational experiences in our schools, as demonstrated by student learning data, discipline data, and student survey data.

BETOP PANEL DISCUSSION



How has BETOP designed spaces to learn from students and families in their school Community?





**What have BETOP
members started to learn
and how are sharing our
learning with colleagues?**





**What new spaces are
BETOP members planning
to create?**





What are some of the celebrations from the work of this committee ?



Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards

July 2022

"Reading this courageous book feels like the beginning of a social and personal awakening. . . . I can't stop thinking about it."
—BRENÉ BROWN, PhD, author of *Dare to Lead*

The Four Pivots



Reimagining Justice,
Reimagining Ourselves

SHAWN A. GINWRIGHT, PhD

Street Data

A NEXT-GENERATION MODEL FOR
Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation

SHANE SAFIR | JAMILA DUGAN

Foreword by Christopher Emdin

A JOINT PUBLICATION CORWIN learningforward

Questions?