

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:00 PM

Virtual Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

1.A. Board goals assigned to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

1.A.1. Identify statutory and legislative priorities for engaging legislators and community partners to develop meaningful advocacy for MESD students and communities.

1.A.2. Ensure inclusion through implementing our equity lens to achieve equitable district outcomes

1.B. Strategic Plan goals tied to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

1.B.1. Creating a high quality learning experience for all

1.B.2. Operationalizing systems that engage and empower communities

1.B.3. Building a culturally responsive workforce

2. Review minutes from the January 5, 2023 meeting

3. Action steps for the 2022-2023 Board goals assigned to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

3.A. Advocacy for funding of JDEP and YCEP

3.B. Gather information on prevention and intervention programs and initiatives already in place to help students stay out of the criminal justice system.

Board Equity and Inclusion Committee

Thursday, January 5, 2023

2019-2021 Agency Goals

#1 – Improve outcomes for students

#2 – Become an acknowledged leader and convener of improving educational outcomes

#3 – Increase district and community participation and satisfaction with our services

#4 – Attract, develop and retain high-quality staff

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023 by Committee Chair Ying.

• CALL TO ORDER

Present: Helen Ying, Chair
Denyse Peterson, Board member

Absent: Samuel Henry, Board member

Administration: Sascha Perrins, Assistant Superintendent
Heather Severns, Board Secretary

Guests: Christine Otto

1. **Review notes from the December 1 meeting-** The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 1st meeting and accepted them.

2. **Action steps for the 2022 Board goals assigned to the Equity and Inclusion Committee**

Christine Otto is a guest at the meeting to discuss our incarcerated youth programs.

Committee Chair Ying asked the questions What are some things that are already out there that is making a difference, what is missing, where are the gaps and what can be added to the toolbox or the initiatives that are making a difference.

Christine Otto started with the supports that are provided to youth in our programs.

- a. Jail population-All 18-21 year olds without a GED or diploma, who go through the Multnomah County Jails. One is located in the downtown detention facility and the Inverness location which is located close to the MESD Ainsworth office. We also occasionally provide education inside the Yamhill Jail as well. There is a potential of MESD serving youth in Clackamas depending on staffing. There is an exception to the age limit if they qualify for Bars to Bridges we can work with them until age 24. They are not allowed access to technology in the Jail. In the downtown jail we can only do one on one instruction and at Inverness we are able to have a class twice a week. We cannot combine students on different units so an individual student can only have access to class once a week. There is tutorial support throughout the day. It is the student's choice to participate in the program after they turn 18.

There will be two students graduating at the end of this semester in the jail program. We have served an average of 100 students over the course of a year. At any given time there are 15-20 students in the jail.

The jail program is unique because it is a smaller program. It is funded and the rules are different than JDEP and YCEP. It is the responsibility of the district where the facility is located to ensure that they are provided with education, which means that Inverness is technically Parkrose's responsibility for ensuring education happens. The Downtown detention center is PPS. Both districts contract with us using resolution dollars to provide these services. We report ADM on behalf of the districts.

Because it is not a state program it is dictated by the same instructional hours as Parkrose or PPS would have. It is a 190 day program, not year round. There have been conversations with our partners at the jails to make this a year round program but they do not have the funds and our component districts have no obligation to pay for year round school because they are not paying for it for the students enrolled in their schools. This is a gap, these are credit deficient 18-21 year olds who have not earned a high school diploma and could benefit from year round instruction.

Committee Chair Ying let the group know that she spoke with Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal about what we are doing and she is interested and would like to help.

Assistant Superintendent Perrins suggested Committee Chair Ying request a visit to the jail programs. Christine Otto described the climate at the downtown jail versus Inverness. She let the group know that staff at the jails have observed that there is a tremendous need for more GED classes and also for English Language Learner classes. Unfortunately the majority of the people who need both of those do not qualify for our age range.

- b. YCEP-We provide the education per contract. OYA also has a contract with us to provide education for those who have effectively graduated through the age of 24. We do a lot of CTE course work and as a result support some college classes.

We do not necessarily have any transition support associated with our YCEP locations but all of the kids that qualify under different grants can have access. With the most recent funding from SB1522 if we budgeted and asked we would have funds to be able to provide transition support for youth that leave the facility for the YCEP locations like we would for some of our JDEP programs. We have not put a lot of attention into that because many of these students can be served through Bars to Bridges or DEL bridges and when they reach the age of 24 there is not much we would be able to do for them. Staffing is also an issue right now as well.

Committee Chair Ying asked if this was a gap. Christine Otto described why students aging out of our services is not really a gap but agreed that when we are sending students back to their home area there could be more of a warm hand off. The places

we are sending students back to might not have funding for transition services. Not all JDEP and YCEP providers are providing transition.

Christine spoke with the committee about SB1522 and the process we have gone through with it. We have not figured out a long term solution to JDEP funding. We are trying to get something passed in this legislative session so we have sustainable funding. This is a gap, sustainable and consistent funding.

Another gap is the data for judges. The facilities have this information but the judges do not always have it. Committee Chair Ying would like to learn about who is looking at the data, what kind of data they have and what are they doing with it. Christine Otto advised that as the committee approaches looking at these questions they need to look at which part of the system they want to focus on.

Committee Chair Ying would like to have Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal to attend a future Board Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting. She would like to have her talk with our committee about a movement in Washington where they are not putting youth in detention if they commit a crime.

- c. JDEP-We provide education in three different facilities.
 - i. Ponderosa Creek in Albany is in the same location at Three Lakes and Riverside High School. Because it is at the same location we have several certified teachers and can maximize our staff and provide additional opportunities for students that are not possible in other locations.
 - ii. Baker Creek averages 8-10 students at any given time. It serves six counties and is located in downtown McMinnville. We have one teacher and one EA that is also the registrar. They are able to offer some CTE there and are able to do some comprehensive education. Because of SB1522 we now have a full time transition specialist associated with this program who meets with kids and then works with all of the districts. She is building strong relationships with JCC and the six counties as well as the main schools the students are coming from. This is improving transitions.
 - iii. Donald E. Long in Portland- We have traditionally had the Bars to Bridges program that is primarily funded through the African American Black Student Success Plan Grant. Christine received word yesterday that we will be getting a minimum of one year and possibly two year extension on that grant without having to go through a re-application process for this biennium so we know we will have funding for at least an additional year or two. We also received a grant this year for our Latino, Latinx and Indigenous students that allows us to also give some expanded support for that population. Separate from the SB1522 that allows us to provide support for every youth that comes through DEL.

We have a relationship with Multnomah County and are developing a relationship with Washington County that we have full access to all the kids who come through the courts. Which means that we can help kids proactively

before they-n end up having to spend a night in detention. Many of the kids who are in that space are not connected into school so we are able to expand some supports there.

We have a couple other Bridges programs, Hospitals, East County Bridges that support our justice involved youth or hospitalized youth.

Committee Chair Ying asked Christine Otto to come back in February and to further explore about where the gaps are. She is also going to request a walkthrough of the Inverness and Downtown jail space for her and Board Chair Denyse Peterson. She is also going to invite Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal to join them.

Assistant Superintendent Perrins was asked if he could come back with more information on stable funding for JDEP as it was seen as the biggest gap. Also an answer to what demographic data do the judges have access to.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. The next meeting of this committee will be February 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Severns
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary