



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Board Advisory Committee

Blue Valley Board of Education Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee

October 6, 2022

Members present: Celia Fritz-Watson, Chuck Corday, Fariha Shafi, Kawaini Duson, Richard Nobles, Nefertari Kirkman-Bey Pross, Angela Mosby, Chris Gray, Dennis Selznick, Tom Mitchell, Gina Knapp, Scott Roberts, Kelly Wessel, Jacki Dearth, Manal Wiedel, Erica McDonald, Aliyah Haq, Sarah Markowitz, Kristi Dixon

The Blue Valley Board of Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) met on Thursday, October 6, 2022. The meeting started with Kelly Wessel asking the group what they remembered from the first meeting.

- Bring students into professional learning
- Take action this year
- Measure the effectiveness of the action work we decide to engage

Susan Tideman and Christy Lahood from the Blue Valley Education Foundation delivered a presentation about the Blue Valley Education Foundation. The presentation included

- The BVEF's mission is to enrich educational excellence.
- The history of the Foundation, and its purpose.
- The Foundation has put \$7.7 million back into the district - highlighted a new food pantry program to support special education programming and serving our community as a whole.
- The Foundation empowers teachers, enables students to lead, innovate and learn for the future, and supports educators and staff.
- They serve students, teachers, the district, and the community.
- The shared purpose of school foundations is in the health of communities.
- They described their fundraising structures, including signature events.

- They described how they distribute funds to the school district - teacher grants, building grants, district-wide grants, capital projects, and student scholarships.
- They reviewed the Foundation's programs, e.g., the Sunflower Ambassador Program, BV WELL, Sources of Strength, and the Wilderness Science Center.

The committee then transitioned to discussing how the BVEF can support the priorities established by the DEI Committee at our last meeting through an adaptation of the consultancy protocol (National School Reform Faculty).

- The dilemma: How can we leverage BVEF to expand family and community partnerships to strengthen school connectedness?
- Committee members discussed in small groups and then shared out with the larger group.
- Groups shared the following ideas:
 - Battle the Bands - more representation of other cultures as compared to just 70s and 80s rock.
 - Night of Lights - multi-cultural representation, e.g., food trucks
 - "Nothing about us without us!"
 - Self-advocating workshop for teens with diverse needs
 - Suicide Prevention
 - DEIA Giving Circle
 - Developing scholarships for LGBTQI youth and students who
 - Partnering with local advocacy groups like Suburban Balance
 - How does the BVEF define its community? Are there ways to put student voice into programming around mental health?
 - Representing Readers or Mirroring Readers
 - Create a reading guide for representative literature for students K-12.
 - Mobile library
 - Creating a volunteer program "Lunch Bunch" for students of color to eat lunch together.
 - Partnership with programs already in place for Interfaith connections

The meeting concluded with a preview of the agenda for the next meeting on November 3, 2022, in which Jake Slobodnik, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations will present about Bond 2020, and what we have been able to do in the past three years, and Kyle Hayden, Deputy Superintendent will present about the upcoming Bond 2023.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2022

4:00 – 5:15 PM

District Office - BOE Room

15020 Metcalf

Overland Park, KS 66223