DRAFT

Environmental Charter Schools

Minutes

Diversity and Equity Task Force Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Monday March 13, 2017 at 4:30 PM

ECMS-I Members
Beth Bernstein Yamashito
Geneva Dowdy
Tashando Giles Jones
Danny Cristales
ECMS-G Members
Tasneem Muhammad
Christina Usenza
Samson Pham
ECHS Members
KC Villoria
Sara Diaz

Diversity and Equity Taskforce Charter
The Equity & Diversity Taskforce promotes and supports ECS's work to develop a school culture that fosters equity, inclusion and an appreciation of the diversity within our community.

Recent events in our nation have drawn attention to structures and processes that have historically disadvantaged people of color and persist today. We acknowledge that ECS, as an educational institution, is situated within a historical context and is not immune to the biases and structural inequities that have disenfranchised the communities we serve. As a public education leader in Los Angeles, we have a powerful responsibility to respond proactively and to embrace

opportunities to change the structures and processes within our institution that undermine our efforts to educate and empower ECS students.
We need to critically examine our practices with an eye to continual growth, modeling the lifelong learning and critical thinking that will empower our students to be quality stewards of their communities and our world.

History of this Work
The Taskforce will build upon the work already begun at our three campuses, including Arlene Ford's Great Minds Inquiry at ECHS in 2011-2014, the ongoing efforts of the ECHS Equity & Pedagogy Coalition and collaborative work of ECMS with Tyrone Howard in 2015-16.

Call to Action
The Equity & Diversity Taskforce will examine data on topics such as student achievement, school discipline, school climate and enrollment trends/retention; address the roots of bias; share insights and suggest possible resources or actions to ECS leadership. The Taskforce membership will include parent, student, teacher, staff, administration and Board representation. Community members may also serve on the Taskforce.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.
REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY
The Governing Board's presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE
Notice is hereby given that consistent with the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY
Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting ECS at 812 West 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247; telephone (310) 214-3400; fax (310) 214-3410.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact ECS at 812 West 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247; telephone (310) 214-3400; fax (310) 214-3410.

Committee Members Present
Christiana Usenza, Danielle Kelsick, Danny Cristales, Kami Cotler, Samson Pham, Sara Diaz, Tashanda Giles Jones

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Committee Members Absent
Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro, Dr. Denise Berger, Dr. Geneva Matthews, Farnaz Golshani-Flechner, KC Fabiero, Tasneem Muhammad

Guests Present
Alison Diaz, Brandie Cobb, Dani Hughes, Francisco McCurry, Julie Vo, Julie Vo, Veronica Fuentes

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I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Danielle Kelsick called a meeting of the Equity and Diversity Committee of Environmental Charter Schools to order on Monday Mar 13, 2017 at 4:38 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Sara Diaz made a motion to approve agenda.
Christiana Usenza seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Presentation from the Floor

A. Presentations from the Floor

None

B. Presentation on the Agenda

None

IV. Discussion Items / Updates

A. ECMS-G Update

ECMS-G's team presented their urgent equity issue-- an imbalance in disciplinary referrals for students with disabilities.

Strategy/Approach:

- More Data Collection
- Modify SPED discipline approach

- Targeted Training for SPED department based on data.
- Additional support to SPED students through counseling and mentorship programs.
- Train ALL teachers on strategies for better accommodating students based on their IEP and behavior support plans.

Progress Indicators:

- Measure Referral Data Periodically
  - Decrease in multiple referrals per recipients
  - Decrease in amount/percentage of referrals from SPED students vs ECMS-G students
- Teacher and staff reports
- Higher #'s on Behavior Charts

B. ECMS-I Update

ECMS_i presented. Their urgent equity issue was that a large percentage of their student population lacks access to healthy nutrition.
Strategy/Approach:

- Hot meals served for breakfast 2x a week.
- Snacks available for students during recess.

Progress Indicators:

- Interventions given (time period)
- Student engagement in class.
- Counseling reports.

C. ECHS Update

ECHS's team identified a range of related equity issues. Using climate survey data, they found connections between low-levels of student-reported engagement, a need to improve student-teacher relationships and low rate of parents reporting feeling included in decision-making at school to conclude:

- All stakeholder groups feel detached from one another.
- There is no shared understandings around equity and how it manifests itself in our school context

Their plan:

Strategy/Approach:

- Work in “affinity” groups until sense of community and shared understandings exists among group
- Students & Teachers: Inquiry Process

Progress Indicators:

- Students:
  - In-depth student survey
  - Researched proposal
- Staff:
  - Curriculum development
- Parents:
  - Increased attendance
  - More opportunities for parent participation

D. Activity

E. Next Steps

A resources folder on Google Drive was shared with Equity teams from each site.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Kami Cotler made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Danielle Kelsick seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kami Cotler