

F.W. Parker Charter Essential School

Minutes

DEI Meeting (hosted Online)

Date and Time

Tuesday March 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Location

<http://parker.school/deicommittee>

This meeting is hosted online. <http://parker.school/deicommittee>

Committee Members Present

B. Harrigan, J. Green, L. Hayner, P. Gordon, R. Whalen Crockett, S. Razzetti, T. Testa

Committee Members Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Razzetti called a meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of F.W. Parker Charter Essential School to order on Tuesday Mar 28, 2023 at 7:16 PM.

II. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

A. Welcome

Group shared good news.

B. Transportation Goals

Transportation to Parker is a hindrance to diversity with respect to both low income families and families of color. Discussed Parker transportation/bussing evaluation that is underway - Brian and Sonia partnering to bring a busing proposal to BoT by November 2023 for review and approval.

DEI subcommittee discussed

1) ideas for funding -

a) state funding is possible but requires bussing be offered to each town in Parker's charter

b) potential to fund transportation using an additional development campaign focused on this specific need; by Parker funding the bussing, this allows more flexibility in how many bussing routes we need to establish.

2) Ideas regarding options for transportation -

a) MART service has not proven to be a viable option.

b) leveraging of the MBTA commuter rail's Fitchburg Line to support transportation broadly; leveraging the MBTA Fitchburg commuter rail line combined with van transportation between Ayer MBTA station and Parker school could be a viable option.

c) a traditional bus company (outsourcing the bussing) such as Dee Bus in Shirley, MA (initial contact has been made).

d) a van route that services Leominster and Fitchburg, potentially leveraging our partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Leominster/Fitchburg as pick up and drop off point.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Razzetti