

## **DEI Committee Meeting**

**9.7.23**

**Members present:** Kristi Dixon, Scott Robertds, Samiya Tolliver, Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Dr. Sonya Evans, Richard Nobles, Terri Newman, Lisa Jensen, Nefertari KB Pross, Jody Mason, Dan Geist, Dr. Kelly Wessel, Alicia Anderson, Jodie Dietz, Manal Wiedel, Theshiona Fleming, Dennis Selznick

### **Minutes**

The meeting began with introductions. Dr. Wessel shared the purpose of the committee that we will be an advisory body for the school district through a DEI lens. Dr. Merrigan shared that a group of patrons met with her regarding an incident at BVHS last year and asked her to look at BOE civility policy. BOE members Gina Knapp and Jodie Dietz asked the BOE DEI committee to review BOE policies 3500 and 3512- student discipline and the accompanying administrative guidelines and Civility of Students. Dr. Merrigan presented the policy and the administrative guideline. She highlighted the disruptive speech and conduct section. We will return to these policies/guidelines in the Spring semester.

Dr. Merrigan then passed out BOE policy 3512 - Civility of Students. She asked the committee to take the policy home, review it and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

Dr. Wessel described the district's Diversity Team. She talked about the Diversity team's work developing Community Connections to promote awareness and appreciation of our Blue Valley families. The Community Connections is a list of some celebrations and observances each month. Schools will place these in their weekly newsletters. Committee members reviewed the Community Connections, raised questions and provided feedback. As part of the conversation, a question was raised about staff professional learning in DEI. We planned to discuss staff professional learning at a future meeting.

Dr. Wessel distributed a list Special Recognition Days/Months for the 2023-24 school year produced by the district's Communication Department. Committee members reviewed the days and months. Members provided feedback regarding the list asking for awareness and consistency around what we celebrate and call attention to.