



February 1, 2024 | Meeting Notes | BV Board of Education Room

**Attendees:**

Tonya Merrigan, Scott Roberts, Kelly Wessel, Angela Mosby, Richard Nobles, Jodie Dietz, Dilsha Chebolu, Terri Newman, Lisa Jensen, Shahzad Zafar, Alicia Anderson, Sarah Markowitz - Schreiber, Chris Gray, Manal Wiedel, Dennis Selznick, Sonya Evans, Chuck Cordray, Kristi Dixon, Jody Mason, Kawani Duson, Dan Geist, Lindsay Weiss

**Notes:**

Dr. Kelly Wessel welcomed everyone and introduced the topic and presenters.

Blue Valley School District Chief Legal Counsel Melissa Hillman presented information about federal laws that impact public schools. She began with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She then explained the definitions and implications of Title VI, Title VII, and Title IX that protect individuals from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, or gender. She focused on our district's compliance with each of the Title laws. The role of school personnel is to recognize discrimination, recognize possible parties, and report discrimination or harassment to a supervisor. Ms Hillman shared her role as the equity coordinator and the Title IX coordinator. She also described the impact of on campus behavior and off campus behavior. She detailed how Title IX regulations from 2020 caused the school district to refine policies. She expects new Title IX regulations in March 2024. Blue Valley has created a Civil rights statement as well as BOE policy 3625 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation for students and BOE policy 6525 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation for employees. After her presentation, committee members engaged in a question-and-answer session with Ms. Hillman. In response to a question about how BV staff is trained in these areas, Dr. Wessel explained how the Public School Works system has been implemented for staff training.



The committee next heard from two of our high school principals, Dr. Charles Golden and Dr. Katie Bonnema, regarding their experiences supporting their school communities through emergent events, traumatic events, and acts of discrimination. After they presented, members of the committee engaged in feedback and conversation with Dr. Golden and Dr. Bonnema.

**Next Meeting**

April 4, 2024

4:00 – 5:15 PM

District Office - BOE Room

15020 Metcalf

Overland Park, KS 66223