



Blue Valley Board of Education Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee September 2, 2021

Attendance: Michelle Benjamin, Yuchien Chiang Singer, Jackie Dearth, Jodie Dietz, Kristi Dixon, Kiwaini Duson, Chris Gray, Tonya Merrigan, Nayelli Palazuelos-Bowers, Fariha Shafi, Rabiya Shoab, Susan Swift, Ephren Taylor, Brittany Verrette, Yongfu Wang, Kelly Wessel, Manal Wiedel

The Blue Valley Board of Education Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee met on Thursday, September 2, 2021 via zoom. After a welcome to the new school year and new members, Dr. Kelly Wessel reviewed the recommendations that were given to the Blue Valley Board of Education last June which represented this committee's work. The committee asked for an update throughout the year on the progress of these recommendations.

The committee then transitioned to reviewing the role of the Blue Valley Board Advisory Committees including the following definition which is shared on the district website.

*The Blue Valley Board of Education believes in the active involvement and participation of the Blue Valley community in the affairs of the district. Board of Education Advisory Committees are formed by the Board **for the purpose of seeking advice and providing widespread involvement in issues affecting the district.** As the district grows and changes, these advisory committees allow the Board to increase involvement in the school district and **receive input from the community on key issues.***

The final activity of the meeting was to brainstorm different areas within the district the committee would like to hear about in regards to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion throughout the year. The topics included the following.

- Human Resources and hiring updates regarding diverse staff
- Curriculum and Instruction development
- Counselor and mental health supports for all students
- Multicultural festivals or other activities within the district
- Diversity clubs and assemblies within the district including hearing from these student leaders

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2021
4-5:30 pm via Zoom