

OCT 20 2022

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**SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE/DEIAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2022
SANDWICH HIGH SCHOOL**

School Committee Meeting Members Present - Chm. DiGiacomo, Mr. Sareault, Dr. Miller, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell (excused), Ms. Binienda, Ms. Brown

Administration Present - Dr. Maruszczak; Ms. Wiklund

DEIAC Subcommittee Members Present - Colleen Clabault (SMHS DEI Lead Teacher), Jeanne Nelson (SMHS Assistant Principal), David Aycock (SMHS Assistant Principal), Diana Ganju (SMHS/DEIAC), Becky Milburn (DEIAC/Parent Rep.), Trish Hill (Oak Ridge School Principal), Jim Mulcahy (SMHS Principal), Chris Dintino (Forestdale Principal), Joanne Saunders (Forestdale DEI Lead Teacher), Beth Donahue (SMHS DEI and teacher)

Others Present - Charlie Holden (Select Board), Mara Evans (Parent)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chm. DiGiacomo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Forum

N/A

4. Discussion of data from surveys administered last school year

A brief presentation by Ms. Wiklund, entitled "VOCAL Survey School Climate 2022" for Grades 5 through high school was given. Ms. Wiklund said there is a percentage of students struggling at school and have no faith that they will be heard. The bottom line is that the numbers should be as small as possible. There isn't an enormous problem, but we can do more so kids feel safe and respected.

Dr. Maruszczak said he is in agreement and although the data will never be at 100%, there is significant room for improvement as far as a broader perspective.

Ms. Wiklund added there is a new thinking about empathy where you listen to students talk about their life experiences and to believe them.

Chm. DiGiacomo feels the DEIAC's goal is for every student to have a sense of belonging at school, and he has faith that we are moving forward to make a positive impact on our students on a small level.



5. Discussion regarding changes to the current structure of the subcommittee, including new membership

Dr. Maruszczak attended a program for all superintendents across the state in Marlboro, MA. There was discussion on the DEIAC subcommittee being restructured to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, and for discussion tonight, have three (3) school-based committees for more involvement.

Chm. DiGiacomo said the school committee would need an agenda item at their next meeting to vote to dissolve the DEIAC subcommittee, restructure the focus and name it the Superintendent's Advisory Committee.

6. Focal areas for DEI engagement/work

Chm. DiGiacomo explained even with the new structure with the DEIAC being a school-based committee, the school committee will continue to add anyone on the agenda at any time; the opportunity will not be taken away; and will still be made public.

Discussion on wanting the students to be happy, feel accepted and welcomed at school. Building empathy and building allies when students leave the school system.

Mr. Sareault wanted to make it clear that the DEIAC and its new structure, will still have a voice with the School Committee.

7. Next steps

Dr. Maruszczak suggested the DEIAC meet to discuss the restructure and composition, bringing it back to the School Committee at their next meeting of October 19, 2022.

Ms. Milburn said there are a total of 5 DEIAC members; two are present tonight but all 5 need to be part of this discussion and decision. She is personally in favor of making the DEIAC school-based committees, if that is what serves the students best and advances the work. The new structure will be different at each school in part because there are existing DEI working groups in some of the buildings and how those groups will co-exist or be merged with the new school-based committee is up to the administration. That's not for DEIAC to decide.

8. Announcements

Mr. Sareault mentioned the passing of Jon Nelson and read the wake and funeral dates and times.

Chm. DiGiacomo added the school committee will not be meeting on October 5, 2022 out of respect for Mr. Nelson while giving the community the opportunity to attend his services.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Sareault **MOVED** and **SECONDED** by Mr. Fisher to adjourn at 7:35 PM.
UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The next meeting will be September, October 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Sandwich Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Kushkowski

Lisa Kushkowski
Recording Secretary for the School Committee

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING:

VOCAL Survey School Climate Presentation for 2022
Sandwich School Committee/DEIAC Subcommittee Workshop

APPROVED
10/20/22

