



EQUITY ALLIANCE MN
BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2017
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS DISTRICT OFFICES
5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by George Hoepfner, Board Clerk, at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE:

SSD 006: South St. Paul
ISD 199: Inver Grove Heights
ISD 623: Roseville
ISD 624: White Bear Lake
ISD 831: Forest Lake
ISD 834: Stillwater

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Jeff McClellan
Cindy Nordstrom
Kitty Gogins – Chair
Ellen Fahey
Karen Morehead
George Hoepfner – Clerk

STAFF:

Dr. Jean Lubke, Executive Director; Janine Stammler, Office Manager

GUESTS:

Dave Bernhardson, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools Superintendent
Chad Poitra, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools and South St. Paul Schools
American Indian Community Liaison
Sherry Warrick and Matt Schaefer - Inver Grove Heights Schools Board Members
Hamdi Ahmed - South St. Paul YEB member
Gabby Mba - Forest Lake YEB member
Cassidy Lee - White Bear Lake YEB member

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) moved to approve the agenda. Karen Morehead (ISD 831) seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

OPEN FORUM

There was no one signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Karen Morehead (ISD 831) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Jeff McClellan (ISD 006) seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

FOCUS AREA #1 – PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT EDUCATE AND SUPPORT STAFF, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES AND DIMINISH BARRIERS TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY:

I. Inver Grove Heights Equity Presentation

Dave Bernhardson, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools Superintendent, welcomed the Equity Alliance MN Board and introduced Chad Poitra, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools and South St. Paul Public Schools American Indian Community Liaison. Chad shared with the Board some of the work he is doing with the Native American families in both Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul. As he stated, “We are in Dakota territory and we need to appreciate that and teach our students and community to appreciate that.” The district is looking to hold a higher education summit for Native American students and families to start looking at higher education options at a younger age. Chad stated that both districts have just under 50 students identified as Native American, and he is working to help the other families identify. He is also working to identify what skills the families want the district to help them build. The district is only in the infancy stages of the program, but they have already accomplished a lot and are very excited to continue working with the families.

II. Update on 2016-17 and Summer Programming

Dr. Lubke shared the 2016-2017 program participation and the 2017-2018 summer programming participation information with the Board. Numbers are down from previous years for both professional development and student programming; however, the number of participants from “other” districts are up. There was decreased enrollment in summer professional development offerings, but that seems to be the case with other organizations as well.

III. Update on New Services

Dr. Lubke updated the Board on some new opportunities that Equity Alliance MN staff are working on. The team is going to Rochester to collaborate with leadership to see how we can best work together. We have had conversations with leaders in Winona, Owatonna, and Faribault. Presentations and attendance at conferences and trainings is giving us exposure to organizations other than school districts. Social agencies that are working with students and families are realizing that they need help in working with their clients, and they are beginning to come to us for this help. We have had meetings with several organizations from Wilderness Inquiry to Minneapolis Institute of Arts to MSBA to see how we can partner to help one another. These are organizations that support and surround our school districts; it is important that these partner organizations are operating with an equity lens for our students and families as well.

FOCUS AREA #2 – LEAD REGIONAL DIALOGUE, ADVOCACY, AND ACTION FOR EQUITABLE EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND OUTCOMES:

I. Update on Conference Presentations and Proposals

Dr. Lubke reported that one of the ways Equity Alliance MN is gaining attention is through conference presentations. A team presented at the MSBA early bird session, and they received positive feedback from the attendees. The team submitted three separate proposals for the MASA fall conference; Culturally Responsive Leadership, Equity through Technology, and Organizational Equity Assessment. The proposal on Culturally Responsive Leadership was accepted and will be presented on October 2 at 9:45 a.m. The Equity through Technology proposal will be submitted for the TIES17 Educational Technology Conference. The team also submitted a proposal, Awakening Youth Voices (with YEB youth), for the FREC Overcoming Racism Conference.

FOCUS AREA #3 – STRENGTHEN EQUITY ALLIANCE MN’S BUSINESS MODEL TO PROMOTE OUR OWN FISCAL AUTONOMY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GROWTH:

I. Update on Business Plan

Dr. Lubke updated the Board on the work the Equity Alliance MN staff has been doing in regards to the business plan. We have established organizational norms. We are working on updating position descriptions; Dr. Lubke will be working with district HR directors to do a comparable worth analysis once the descriptions are completed. We have created shared documents for contacts and activity tracking. We have adopted Eventbrite as our online registration and payment system which will also provide us with tracking information and will serve as a marketing tool. We have established an organizational process workflow and will be working to see how the different positions intersect with one another. We have also established the membership level discounts for members, associate members, and non-members for programs and services.

II. ACTION: Approval of Revised FY18 Budget

Dr. Lubke discussed the revised FY18 budget with the Board. She reported that there has been an increase in member and non-member professional development revenue, meaning that the amount needed from the fund balance is decreasing. After some discussion, George Hoepfner (ISD 834) moved to approve the revised FY18 budget. Ellen Fahey (ISD 624) seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

III. Update on Perpich Membership and Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Vote

Dr. Lubke reported that on Wednesday, August 16th, she received an email from the executive assistant of Perpich’s Superintendent stating that Perpich will not be pursuing membership with Equity Alliance MN. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has, therefore, been approved by all member districts and goes into effect immediately.

IV. Board Meetings

The September 20th EMID Board meeting falls on the beginning of Rosh Hashanah. There was discussion about rescheduling the Board meeting so it does not conflict with this holiday. Karen Morehead (ISD 813) made a motion to begin the September 20th meeting at 5:00 p.m.

with an intention to end before the beginning of Rosh Hashanah (sundown, 7:13 p.m.). Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Dr. Lubke also reported that the Equity Alliance MN staff will be meeting with the WMEP staff on a monthly basis this year to further explore how we can work with one another and build our strategic partnership. We would like to have a joint working session of the two Boards during October and November. Dates were discussed and will be shared with the WMEP Board to finalize a date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports

BOARD FORUM

Jeff McClellan (SSD 006) – Jeff noted that he attended the MSBA conference and sat in on the early bird session that Equity Alliance MN hosted. He stated that he thought it was a great session, and he heard positive feedback from other participants. He also reported that South St. Paul hosted an annual gala honoring former graduate and former governor Tim Pawlenty. Jeff also noted that South St. Paul’s leadership team is doing equity training with Jamie Almanzan; he stated that the participants can’t say enough good about it.

Karen Morehead (ISD 831) - Karen reported that Forest Lake is going to the voters for a levy increase and bond referendum. They will be asking for a \$750 per pupil increase in their current operating levy, as well as \$9 million for a facilities bond to improve arts and athletics facilities. They are currently on time and under budget with the current construction, but they had to cut \$2.3 million from the operating budget this year, so they need more help. Karen also noted that the new superintendent, Steve Massey, is off to a great start.

Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) – Cindy reported that her term on the Inver Grove Heights school Board is up and she is going for re-election. There are eight candidates running for three open seats. She also noted that the district will be going to the voters to revoke the two current levies and replace them with one increased levy. They will also be asking for a capital projects levy to focus on college and career readiness, technology, and mental health.

George Hoepfner (ISD 834) – George noted that Stillwater has no levy, no bond, and no Board elections this coming year. The district is beginning conversations around mental health with Washington County and Lakeview Hospital. George also noted that he recently attended the new employee luncheon, which welcomed 71 new district employees. He also reported that he is working on his speech for the staff workshop, and he is planning on highlighting responsive classrooms, the dual-immersion program at Lake Elmo elementary, pre-K in all of the elementary buildings, the new middle school model, and many arts and athletics accomplishments from the past year. He also noted that the high school orchestra

was the first school orchestra in the state to be invited to a national competition in Pittsburg.

Ellen Fahey (ISD 624) – Ellen noted that Jamie Almanzan will be speaking at the opening staff workshops. She also reported that White Bear Lake will be looking at expansion of the AVID program, the EOS project, and the career pathways program.

Kitty Gogins (ISD 624) – Kitty reported that she attended a session for leaders and Board members at the AVID Summer Institute hosted in Minneapolis in July. One of the student speakers at the conference was a Roseville graduate! Kitty also noted that the district is focused on absent narratives and moving it forward across all grades, particularly in the elementaries. She also reported that at the last Roseville Board meeting, there was a presentation regarding Special Ed Math curriculum development. Part of the project included developing an overarching curriculum framework for Special ED that is standards based and outlines connection to regular curriculum.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Kitty Gogins adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

EMID Board Clerk

Date