

Newtown Board of Education
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee
BOE Conference Room
October 14, 2022, 8:00 am

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

MINUTES

Present: Alison Plante (chair), Dan Cruson (member), Deb Zukowski (member), Chris Melillo (Superintendent), Anne Uberti (Assistant Superintendent) and one member of the public.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Plante called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from 9/16/22 Meetings

Mr. Cruson moved to approve the minutes from the 9/16/22 meetings. Ms. Zukowski seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Update on DEI Coordinator Search

Mr. Melillo said this was the last day for the DEI Coordinator posting, and that so far multiple applications have been received. All applications will be reviewed next week. He also commented that we should still have a “plan B,” that would include using a consultant to provide the services needed to support the district’s DEI efforts.

Ms. Zukowski asked if Board representation would be needed for the review process. Mr. Melillo responded that since this is a certified teaching staff position, the Board is typically not involved in the hiring process. The hiring committee should mirror that used for hiring teachers. Ms. Uberti is working with Ms. D’Eramo, Director of HR, to put together a district-wide hiring committee but cautioned that it should not be too big.

5. Update on Training for DEI Subcommittee

Ms. Plante said that George Coleman would be leading the DEI Committee training on Oct. 24, beginning at 6 pm. He would be accompanied by Esther Bobowick. The training should take about 2 hours, and will be focused on policy. Mr. Melillo added that he and Mr. Coleman have been discussing the training to ensure that it was focused on the needs of the Board. Mr. Coleman has also made it clear that he is available to be a continuing resource, as needed. All members of the DEI committee and Mr. Melillo plan to be present at the training.

6. Public Participation

None.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Zukowski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 am, seconded by Mr. Cruson. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborra Zukowski

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOE DEI
COMMITTEE