

City of Geneva Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of City of Geneva DEI Taskforce called to order at 6:34pm at Geneva City Hall First Floor Conference Room by Chair Nuzzo-Ericksen.

Roll Call

Present: Albert, Cervenka, Gramlich, Gregory, McMille, Nuzzo-Ericksen, Kelly, also present Dawkins

Amendments to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from June 2023 meeting were approved. Motion made by Gramlich second by Albert.

Andy Barrett – Geneva School District New Superintendent

Barrett is the incoming Superintendent of District 304, Geneva schools. Though he is new to the role, he is not new to the district having worked 18 years; first as principal of Mill Creek Elementary School for years, then as Director of Curriculum for the district. He lives within the Tri-Cities and is very familiar with the community he serves. Barrett stated he believes in Geneva and is eager to hear from folks. He then opened the floor to questions from the task force.

Challenges he expects to face:

The current status of the world. We are living in a difficult time for children of all ages to understand and for educators to navigate. Training is still backed up from COVID delays. More kids than ever with IEPs need resources. In 2013, ELL learners were 48, in 2022, there were over 200 ELL learners in the district. District has always struggled with a diverse faculty. However, staff does represent the demographic it serves.

Supporting students' mental health:

The death of a high school student brought mental health awareness and support into the spotlight. District has programming at all three levels (elementary, middle, high) to introduce mental health support. Member McMillan mentioned principals are using gender neutral terms instead of "boys and girls, etc. District continues to focus on making small changes toward inclusion. Trauma informed teaching is a focus for training.

Training:

Barrett believes educator and support staff training needs to improve, they are challenged with finding the time for trainings beyond those required by the state for all educators. All nursing staff are trained on the use of Narcan and have Narcan.

Barrett is eager to find out what the task force uncovers in its research and would be interested in a collaboration of some sort in the future with the City.

Review of DEI Work Plan

Ethos continues to schedule interviews and focus groups. The survey has ended. Over 400 responses were recorded, which is a great turnout. More detailed results to come at our next meeting.

New Business/Public Comment

This will be Member Kelly's last meeting for the semester. She is beginning classes at the University of Rochester School of Music

Next meeting is scheduled for August 23, in the large conference room of City Hall. Ivana will be providing an update on behalf of Ethos.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm, motion by Gramlich second by Forst.

Minutes submitted by: Ashley Nuzzo-Ericksen