



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

MINUTES

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Important Notice: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force – Education Subcommittee** will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. All meetings and hearings listed in the agenda will also be done so through remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.shrewsburyma.gov/coronavirus. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. To listen to this meeting, dial [1 415-779-8261] and enter the following pin: [122 475 034#]. Please mute your device.

Present: Deb Deldotto; Maura Egan; Priya Rathnam; Helene Winn; Lynsey Heffernan; Adeola Mbaneme; Rajesh Velagapudi;; *Noor Ali; Roop Jyot Kaur.* (*Names in italics were not present the entire meeting*)

Meeting began at 7:39

Maura Egan shared the required legal notice before the group began.

The group reviewed and approved the minutes from the prior meeting of November 30, 2010.

Group reaffirmed Maura Egan as Chair; Adeola Mbaneme as Co-Chair and Lynsey Heffernan as clerk/scribe, all by unanimous vote. Deborah DelDotto agreed to be a back-up clerk, in case Lynsey cannot attend.

The group discussed a broader focus wanting people to feel welcome in the schools and within town buildings. Training for all town employees to hear the voice of everyone. Ensure that everyone can share their needs. Good stories and not just the problems that people have.

The group relooked at our problem statements and collectively made the following edits.

1. We want to ensure that all children and families feel included in all places and spaces throughout the community;
2. We want to ensure that attention is paid to English Language Learners (ELL) in terms of inclusion for families and appropriate identification services;
3. We want to ensure that all students have equal access for special education services both in terms of identification and in terms of who is receiving services;
4. We want to address the concern that fees and costs of programs may have an inequitable impact, especially in light of our low community tax rate;

5. We want engaged school communities, at each building, where conversations on equity thrive and weave in narratives from our communities;
 1. We want to engage the private schools in our community to be part of this larger conversation and any implementation strategies;

Discussion included removing the “within the school system” from the first problem statement as we want to encompass all town departments. Numbers 2 and 3 might be repetitive with Dr. Sawyer’s committee but the group discussed special education is an area of inequity. These are areas where we may want to request data from the town/schools, including SPED students, demographics and access to AP and college prep.

It was important to reframe ELL as not simply being about children but about adults and families accessing all town services.

Fees and costs: The group wishes to broaden this as well to school fees but also parks and rec, or other services. In addition, the group wondered about the role of SELCO in the town, especially as it comes to ensuring access to internet. Fee based structure historically can be problematic. We would like to get some data around fees in other towns. After reviewing the problem statements

We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday’s of the month going forward, including 1/25; 2/8; 2/22 as our next three meetings.

Priya reminded the group to pose questions for the Kendi event. Next Wednesday the 13th.
Motion to adjourn—Deborah DelDotto Rahesh second, unanimous approval at 8:55pm.

Submitted by Lynsey Heffernan