



SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Equity Audit Workshop
Via Zoom, 5-11-22

Participating: Kristian Merenda
Maureen Moran
Nichola Gallagher (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
Laura Arboleda
Derek Folan
Sarah Shannon
Steve Marshall
Dianna Mullen
Debbie Rooney

Chair Merenda opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Moved: Maureen Moran

Second: Laura Arboleda

Vote 3-0

Superintendent Folan stated that the workshop's goal was to offer an overview of the research process to select an equity audit firm, as well as provide high-level data and rationale. ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds, which will be used to pay for the audit, are to be used to address the impact of COVID, which exacerbated gaps in achievement.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon discussed that COVID exacerbated the inequities that exist within school systems. An equity audit is used to identify the forces at work that create inequitable outcomes, with the goal of creating a more-equitable district. DESE and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) have placed a priority on school districts conducting equity audits. An equity audit will look back three to five years and consider finances and data, including hiring practices, curriculum and family engagement, and identify areas where a district needs to do additional work.

Ms. Mullen said "equity walks" would be conducted in June for the district to do self-assessments. Three Massachusetts-based companies were interviewed for the CPS audit: SchoolWorks, Public Consulting Group (PSG), and Mass Insight. PSG was chosen because of its robust and experienced team; clearly articulated proposal; and timeline, she said. They will begin work in August 2022 and produce a report in January/February 2023.

Chair Merenda closed the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Moved: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Laura Arboleda

Vote 4-0

