



**Minutes**  
**NASHOBA Regional School Committee**  
**Diversity, Equity, Acceptance, and Racial Justice Advisory**

**January 19, 2022**  
**7:00 PM- 9 PM**

**Meeting Remote via Zoom Technology**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87140833497>

Meeting ID: 871 4083 3497

Attendees: Laurie Burnett, Lindsay Chaves, Kristin Hera, Kelly Lawlor, Scott Cumming

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Introductions & Review of Norms**
- III. Citizens Comments**
- IV. Review and Approval of Today's Agenda**
  - Motion to move voting on District Calendar and Professional Development to their discussion in unfinished business. Motion by Kelly Seconded by Kristin unanimous approval.
- V. Approval of 1/5/22 Minutes**

Kelly moves to approve the minutes of the meeting of 1/5/22. Laurie seconds.

  - Unanimous approval of minutes
- VI. Unfinished Business:**
  - District Calendar updates and next steps
    - Values represented by naming holidays on the calendar are supported by the School Committee's recommitment to anti-racist resolution. Values:
      - (1) By not naming the holidays, we make them invisible instead of celebrating these dates.
      - (2) Recognizing, remembering, and honoring history.
      - (3) Celebrating important founding peoples of our country, who worked for liberty and justice for all.
      - (4) Builds community in our schools.
      - (5) Recognizing the names of holidays is a way of acknowledging all students, staff, families, and community members.
    - Kelly will take the lead on drafting a letter to the calendar committee.

- Laurie will follow up with Sharon and Leah to request their suggestions for a path to the School Committee and with Ann Marie Stoica, as head of the calendar committee. Recommendations:
  - (a) All federal holidays to be acknowledged by name
  - (b) Indigenous People's Day to be called by that name
- If deemed appropriate, Laurie will schedule a meeting with Ann Marie to share these changes with the calendar committee before the SC meeting on 1/26/22
- Kelly moves that we will address the calendar committee to address the school committee to make these changes to the district calendar. Lindsay seconds. Unanimous vote of approval.

■ NRSB March Professional Development Day

- Propose a panel discussion focused on equity and connecting the district to the community.
  - (1) What would be the focus of the panel?
    - (a) Sharing resources and connections schools could make with community experts or organizations
    - (b) Sharing personal stories (like Scott's) - to advocate for awareness
      - (i) Help students see they are valued
      - (ii) Appreciate wide variety of learners as assets to our world
- Motion: Kristin moves to submit a proposal to the NRSB Teaching & Learning Dept. for a panel presentation for 3/18 PD day and to create a subcommittee to plan for the panel presentation. Scott Cummings seconds. Unanimous vote of approval.
- 9:18 p.m.: Motion by Kristin to NOT propose a panel for the NRSB Teaching & Learning Dept. for a panel presentation for 3/18 PD day. Seconded by Kelly. Unanimous vote.
  - Next steps instead will be to connect Teaching & Learning to NASJA to potentially coordinate this panel as DEARJ, with its limited time, needs to focus on its advisory work to the School Committee.

■ Community Voice, DEARJ Committee, and DEARJ Advisory Groups

- Review of proposed process and structure
- Discussion:
  - (1) Should members of DEARJ communicate/connect monthly with stakeholders/existing groups - Students for Social Justice, GSA, NASJA, SEPAC....?
  - (2) Mission question: How do we support the existing structures within the buildings/district to support and endorse DEI work?
  - (3) Further discussion to follow at future meetings.

- Discussion of School Committee Response to DEARJ Letter of 11/16/2021
  - Overlaps with mission, vision, and values- so moved onto agenda items in new business.

**VII. New Business**

- Mission, Vision, Values
- Discussion: School Committee wants recommendations from us to move forward in DEI work.
  - Providing research
  - Making recommendations
  - Inviting community to communicate with us via our website
  - Suggesting policies for ways to address problems related to DEI
  - Attending subcommittee meetings to support their work
  - To full SC, present our vision/mission and create common understanding of terminology
- Next Steps
  - Discussion:
    - (1) Response to School Committee
      - (a) Priorities: calendar, presentation about our work and possible next steps.
    - (2) Kelly Lawlor will draft memo regarding calendar recommendations and get feedback from DEARJ Committee for submission at NRSC of 1/26/22
    - (3) DEARJ Committee will meet on 1/24/22 to discuss draft and vote on approval for submission.

**VIII. Announcements/ Updates from the community and district**

**IX. Items for future agendas**

1. Meeting with Superintendent on 2/2/22: Aligning our recommendations and his perception of how we can support the district.
2. Formalize language of DEARJ vision/mission/values.
3. Determine our recommendations to the school committee (for the first year).

**X. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. by Kelly Lawlor. Seconded by Lindsay Chaves. Unanimous vote of approval.