

**KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS
ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
October 26, 2021**

Minutes

The Knox County Schools Alliance For Educational Equity Steering Committee met on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in the library at Central High School, 5321 Jacksboro Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee.

1. Welcome

Superintendent Bob Thomas welcomed the attendees and highlighted the new format of the committee meetings, which are open to the public and include a public forum session.

Superintendent Thomas summarized the history of the committee, including the four action items and 32 strategies that were adopted in 2016, while acknowledging that more progress is needed. He also highlighted the name change from the Disparities in Educational Outcomes Steering Committee to the Alliance for Educational Equity Steering Committee. The Alliance will hold an annual community meeting, and will include six equity teams with a co-chair from KCS and a co-chair from the community. This work will coincide with the Tennessee Department of Education's 7 Equity Commitments:

- a. Decrease Chronic Absenteeism
- b. Reduce Disproportionate Suspension and Expulsion Rates
- c. Increase Early Postsecondary Opportunities
- d. Provide Equitable Access to Effective Teachers
- e. Recruit and Retain a Diverse Teaching Force
- f. Embed Cultural Competence in School Practices
- g. Partner with Community Allies

Co-chair Tomma Battle spoke about her unique perspective as a parent, summarized accomplishments of the DEO Steering Committee and reminded attendees that the district must move forward to achieve measurable results. She also emphasized that making the Alliance meetings public was a step taken in response to requests from the community.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The committee approved the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting.

3. KCS Equity Next Steps

Nate Langlois, Director of Advancement and Diversity, presented a report about next steps in the district's equity work. This report included:

- a. a summary of actions taken already;
- b. a description of the Alliance's structure;
- c. a summary of the Alliance equity teams;
- d. a summary of federal policies including ESSA, ESEA and NCLB; and
- e. a summary of TDOE's Tennessee Leaders For Equity Playbook, and its seven equity commitments.