



Asheville City Schools

PO Box 7347 • 85 Mountain Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

Learn. Discover. Thrive

Asheville Schools City Schools

Equity Collaboration Meeting

Summary Notes from February 12, 2018

Attendees: Dr. Patterson, Dr. McAllister, Lakesha McDay, Debra Campbell, Copland Rudolph, Kimberlee Archie, Gwen Wisler, Shaneika Smith, Stave Hagan, Derek Edwards, Dr. Eric Howard, Bruce Waller, Laura Elliot, Al Whitesides, Dr. Dwight Mullen, Amanda Edwards, Father Abbott, Marta Alcala-Williams, Eric Robinson, Martha Geitner, Shaunda Sanford

I. Welcome and Introductions – Shaunda Sanford

- The meeting was called to order by ACS Board Chair Shaunda Sanford. She welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Background – Superintendent Denise Patterson

- Dr. Patterson gave background information about the joint City, County, and School Board meeting that was held in January. The existing equity collaboration grew out of that effort. Group then was challenged to define the term “Equity.”
- Dr. Patterson then introduced Debra Campbell, City of Asheville City Manager to facilitate the remainder of the meeting

III. Equity Collaboration Discussion – Debra Campbell, Asheville City Manager

- Debra then led a discussion around the following:
 - i. **Purpose** – Public/Private community collaborative effort to address the achievement gap between Black and White students in Asheville City Schools
 - ii. **Goals/ General Comments** –
 1. Address the breakdown in mental health and other family supportive services
 2. Research and identify what’s working well in other communities and apply to Asheville where appropriate

3. Use systemic approach i.e. address the “whole child”
4. Develop a comprehensive youth development plan
5. Identify instructional strategies and training needs
6. Identify and address external community issues impacting students
7. Develop short term milestones and long term visions
8. Implement Data driven systems of accountability
9. Identify BIG barriers to student and family/support system
10. Bring Policy makers together to address BIG barriers
11. Use asset based model rather than deficit model
12. Identify policy changes
13. Apply an equity lens to all we do
14. Be laser focused on the issues that impact achievement gap
15. Build on existing efforts and access to information
16. Identify groups and partners to determine how they can collaborate to address issues
17. Address/reverse institutional racism that manifests itself explicitly or implicitly
18. Accentuate sense of urgency to address issues
19. Initiate quick wins like Student Athletes Prep Sessions for ACT exams
20. Search for and recruit talented Black people on teaching staff to provide positive and caring role models
21. Expunge disciplinary records so students start with clean slate
22. Organize into smaller groups to work on strategies and goals
23. Link affordable housing goals and initiatives to recruit talent in schools
24. Extend the timeframe of the meeting
25. Enhance trust in ACS

iii. Partners/Members

iv. Process

v. Funding

IV. Wrap-up and Next Steps - Debra Campbell, Asheville City Manager

- Following this discussion the group ran out of time and didn't get to discuss the partners, process, or funding. This will be discussed at the next meeting to be scheduled in March. Ms. Campbell thanked the group for attending and the meeting adjourned.