



NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
*Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering All Students
through a World-Class Education*

July 2, 2020

New Hope-Solebury Community,

Our school district recently received a petition from over 500 members of our school district community including current students, alumni, and community members. The [petition](#) requested that the school district take a more focused look at our curriculum, programming, procedures, and policies through an equity lens to ensure that we are providing a more welcoming school district community and to ensure that our curriculum is representative of the history, views and perspectives of our diverse national community. The school district responded to these concerns in a letter to the organizers of the petition which can be found [here](#).

At the Board of School Directors meeting on June 30, 2020, the Board voted to establish a standing Equity Committee for the school district which will be charged with making recommendations to the school district to improve our work in this area. If you are interested in being considered for membership in the Equity Committee, sign up at this [link](#). We would like this committee to be representative of various stakeholders in our community including, faculty, staff, students, parents, community and alumni. You will be notified if you were selected to be a part of this committee. The deadline for submission of the application will be July 17, 2020.

At the Board meeting we outlined several steps that the school district will be taking to address concerns with regards to equity:

- The newly formed Equity Committee will enable the school district and its stakeholders to provide recommendations on the operational procedures, programming, policies and curriculum of the school district. This committee will be comprised of representative stakeholders from our entire school district community.
 - We will be arranging outreach programs to further our community discussion on these topics. We are planning for some of these programs to be done in collaboration with Solebury Township and New Hope Borough so these topics can be expanded beyond the confines of the school district to a conversation for the broader school community.
 - We will be hosting town hall meetings to receive community feedback with regards to issues and concerns so that we can make informed decisions about the areas of priority to address in the coming year.
 - Our fall Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting will also focus on concerns related to our curriculum and its approach to diverse cultures, racism, discrimination in our content areas and provide broader representation of the groups and cultures which have contributed to our society in all areas of the curriculum.
 - We will be engaging in an equity audit which will allow us to receive objective feedback about our programs, policies and curriculum and targeted areas for improvement.
 - We will be collaborating with experts in the field on some of our future programming and interventions including the Antidefamation League and the Peace Center.
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- We will be engaging for professional development of our team with the Delaware Valley Consortium on Excellence and Equity at the University of Pennsylvania which provides professional development to educators from national experts in the field.
- We have integrated into our comprehensive plan for the next three years a focus on the analysis and review of our curriculum from an equity lens to enhance the content and materials utilized to ensure that we are addressing key issues of racism and discrimination and also providing resources which are representative of multiple cultures and viewpoints.

These efforts are only the beginning and we anticipate that the Equity Committee will assist us in identifying and targeting other areas of focus. This will be a long, but strategic process which will allow our school district to move forward and ensure that we are educating our students for the world beyond the New Hope-Solebury bubble. This is critical work in a world which is increasingly more diverse and interconnected. Racism, intolerance, and discrimination cannot and will not be tolerated in our school district and it is essential that we educate our students to be more responsible, global citizens.

We look forward to embarking on this work to make meaningful change in the lives of our students and hopefully be a guidepost for other school districts and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Lentz".

Charles W. Lentz, Ed.D.