

Some of the questions asked by community members at the DEI workshop on 1/31/23:

1. What are the district's DEI reporting requirements to state (or federal) entities, and what data are collected to fulfill those requirements?
2. What do the DEI curriculum matrices look like (the most granular ones available) at each grade level, and can parents have access to them?
3. Can you focus more on communicating academic work at school via newsletters, etc instead of focusing only on SEL and DEI work as it seems like that is all that you are doing at school now rather than academics? DS has always done academics well although the ranking has dropped. We need balance here and the parents need to know you're still working on academics.
4. Can you provide a complete list of references consisting of scientific peer reviewed articles that demonstrate that DEI work increases, or at least maintains, academic rigor? This question was repeated two more times during the event and was not answered.
5. Name and explain the laws that are legally binding the school district to do this work and make all of these changes in the name of DEI?
6. Can you provide scientific evidence from reputable sources that this work is not experimental? If you cannot, then it would appear that you are experimenting on minors without obtaining parental consent.
7. You're promising bold changes that affect the entire curriculum. Why do we have to change so much? Why do we have to change everything like math, science, technology? What changes are you going to make to the curriculum exactly and what subject areas will be looked at through the DEI lens and changed?
8. Why weren't bullying topics, special needs and mental health included in the audit results aside from one sentence about mental health? It was promised to the community that these topics would be covered by the audit.
9. Why does the superintendent say we have unlimited resources for this work? Why does she say the pie of resources will keep growing? The resources are not unlimited.
10. Do we have the funding and support staff for all of this work? Where is the money coming from?
11. We haven't seen the scientific data from the equity audit to support the conclusions that were drawn and the changes and work that are being proposed. Can the raw data from the equity audit be made available to the community? We make decisions based on percentages and data, we need to trust the data and conclusions.
12. You're saying there are no downsides to doing this work but most things have an upside and a downside. Are we raising up some at the expense of others? Are we raising certain people up so much it becomes worse?
13. Can a list of any kind of pedagogy be made available to the community?
14. Where is the scientific evidence to show when it is okay to introduce advanced subject matter to young children? I'm worried about the school introducing things to my young child that he is not ready for and would make him feel unsafe.