



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Equity Task Force Update

September 7, 2022

Dear Pearl River School Community,

As you may recall, the Pearl River School District officially established an Equity Task Force (ETF) in June. This task force was established to guide our district in its effort to become a more equitable and inclusive learning community through an intentional effort of program, policy and practice review, dialogue, and learning from one another.

In July I announced that roughly four dozen community members, administrators, staff, students and parents, as well as other community stakeholders – were selected from more than 120 respondents to be a part of the ETF.

The final organizational piece concerned the selection of an independent facilitator to coordinate and lead the group in its work. To that end, I'm pleased to announce that the Board of Education has approved the hiring of **Dr. Lisa Brady** to serve in this capacity. (Dr. Brady's expertise is supported through a Cooperative Service Agreement with Rockland BOCES.)

Dr. Brady has engaged leaders throughout the Hudson Valley in quality leadership development, including efforts related to diversity, inclusion and belonging. She has an extensive background in working alongside parents, community stakeholders and elected officials.

As the ETF facilitator, Dr. Brady will provide organizational leadership and be an information resource to the membership of the ETF as they work to develop and recommend a specific action plan to the Board of Education. This plan will focus on structural and environmental barriers to success for students from any marginalized groups, and will ensure that all members of the school community experience everything Pearl River has to offer in an equitable manner.

Dr. Brady also will serve as a liaison to the district as the ETF requests information for review, analysis and discussion, and will help organize the ETF's final report.

Dr. Brady comes to Pearl River after serving as Superintendent of Schools in Westchester County's Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District. Prior to her leadership role in Dobbs Ferry, Dr. Brady filled the role of Chief School Administrator, Principal and Vice Principal in several New Jersey school districts, including Hunterdon Central Regional High School and South Hunterdon Regional High School. Additionally, Dr. Brady was an active member of Trenton Public Schools' Board of Education as Supervisor of Child Study/Special Services K-12 and Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, Family Life and Conflict Resolution/Student Mediation K-12.

Dr. Brady earned a Doctorate in Education Administration from Seton Hall University, a Master of Education (Community Health Education) from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from The College of New Jersey. She holds education certifications including New Jersey Chief School Administrator Certification and New York School District Leader Certification, among others.

Along with the Board of Education, I am delighted that this work is ready to begin. We look forward to the results of this meaningful work, and thank our community volunteers in advance for their time, effort, and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marco Pochintesta

Superintendent of Schools