

Pearl River School District  
Equity Task Force Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2022

6:00 PM

Dr. Brady welcomed the group and went over the agenda for the evening.

Dr. Brady explained that everyone will break into subcommittees with the following goals to use as a guide:

- Subcommittees should work together to come up with possible outcomes.
- Use the essential questions to guide the subcommittee work.
- Dr. Brady announced new meeting dates: 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1, 3/15.
- Dr. Brady clarified that the role of this group is to make recommendations to the administration and the Board of Education.
  - Dr. Pochintesta and his team will develop action plans based on those recommendations.
- Dr. Brady explained that in the general meetings, each subcommittee will share progress with the larger group. Members will have an opportunity to give feedback and ask questions of those subcommittees.
- Dr. Brady shared the norms, listening tips and the essential questions (see slide deck).
- Dr. Brady went through each of the essential questions.
  - Not all essential questions will apply easily to all subgroups.
  - Advised the subgroups to collectively define what they think certain terms mean, i.e. “discrimination”, etc.
  - Dr. Pochintesta stated that if we are having trouble with a definition for “discrimination”, you can turn it around to the opposite to help clarify meaning - “whole hearted acceptance”.
  - We are working at the behest of the BOE and need to keep close to what they are looking for.
- A question raised about the similarities between two of the essential questions - “inclusion” and “prevent discrimination”
  - A participant stated that a common vocabulary would be beneficial so everyone knows the intent of the BOE and so they can proceed with this work with the same definitions in mind.
  - Dr. Brady suggested that we can establish key definitions as the terms arise and, whenever possible, use the NYSED published definitions.

- Dr. Brady shared that there is chart paper in each meeting location for recording information and that Dr. Pochintesta and Dr. Brady will circulate from group to group throughout the evening.
- Dr. Pochintesta announced the groups and their locations and commented on final group assignments for double booked participants.

Participants moved into subcommittees at 6:40 PM. The subcommittees closed their meetings at 8:00 PM.