

Pearl River School District  
Equity Task Force Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2022

6:00 PM

Dr. Pochintesta opened the meeting with a brief statement about returning to the original purpose of the Equity Taskforce.

Dr. Pochintesta reminded everyone that the origin of the Task Force was the newly adopted Board of Education policy on [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity in Education](#). Dr. Pochintesta was charged with working with a taskforce to get input on decisions about training, resources, recommendations, etc. Dr. Pochintesta reaffirmed the worthiness of this type of work.

Dr. Pochintesta confirmed that a Task Force meeting is a safe space for participants to express their views - to agree, to disagree, and to share thoughts on what they might be struggling with in related to topics of DEI in Education. Dr. Pochintesta expressed the need to revisit the protocols for sharing and disagreeing within the Task Force forum. He reminded everyone that we are all fairly new to this type of work and that sharing/expressing viewpoints is welcome, expected, and should be supported by all participants.

Dr. Pochintesta turned it over to Dr. Brady who discussed the goals for the day:

- Discuss the [Danger of a Single Story](#) Ted Talk
- Unpack the [NYS-CRSE Framework](#) (she included the following comments)
  - It is not mandatory; only guidance
  - It has not been adopted by Pearl River (issued as a resource to all schools from NYSED)
  - It is not the only way to accomplish this work
  - It is worth looking at as it may (or may not) connect to the work of subcommittees
- Debrief
- Next steps

Dr. Brady reestablished the norms for this work

- Stay engaged, experience discomfort, speak your truth, expect and accept non-closure
  - Dr. Brady re emphasized that it is important to have these conversations in this forum (but know that we are not going to be able to solve all issues/problems related to this topic).
- Listening tips were provided (see presentation slides)

### The [Danger of a Single Story](#)

- Several guiding questions were posted on the board (slide 7)
- Dr. Brady brought the group together to offer opportunities to share (several people shared parts of the story that resonated with them).
  - *Exposure to more stories, incomplete stories, stereotypes, the power of hearing directly from the individuals rather than from secondary sources (news, etc.), students who struggle with learning, impoverished, etc.*
- Dr. Brady discussed the value of recognizing that there are a wide range of perspectives, it is important to understand that there is rarely one, *single story*.
  - Participants shared that there was a feeling that there was a *single story* about Pearl River in the news. Some additional comments were expressed about the book and the *Framework*.
  - Dr. Brady shared that the book was chosen simply as a vehicle for introducing participants to some of the common issues/topics - as an organizing text to engage in the topics and get to know each other through the discussions (she confirmed that there are many different authors/perspectives).
  - Subcommittees will have further discussions on these topics and will share updates with the greater Task Force.
- Dr. Brady introduced the [Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#) (slides 8-13 provide general overview)
  - Dr. Brady discussed two graphics that illustrate the difference between equality, equity, diversity, acceptance and belonging
    - Participants shared interpretations of the graphic
    - Relates to “ableism” “inclusivity”- not just race, disabled people
  - Group Activity/Protocol for Unpacking the Framework
    - Dr. Brady gave an overview of the “Golden Line Protocol” (slide 15-16). Eight groups will read and discuss four different sections of the Framework.
    - Participants broke into groups and worked for about 15 minutes
    - Dr. Brady brought the group together and encouraged sharing from each of the groups (members from each group shared what they read in each assigned section and then reacted to the content).
      - The term “privilege” surfaced as a brief discussion topic (privilege not necessarily meaning wealth).
      - Reaffirmation that Pearl River’s “single story” is not the only story.

Dr. Brady paused the group activity (due to time constraints)

- Dr. Brady introduced the group to the subcommittees
- In response to a question about the meaning of “one perspective” or “different perspectives”, Dr. Brady stated that it is looking at how multiple people might see something, in different ways; understanding how someone else might see something differently (culture, attitudes, ideas, backgrounds, etc.).

Dr. Brady closed the meeting at 8:00 PM

Next meeting November 30, 2022