



MEMO

TO: Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, Superintendent
CC: April Jerger, Executive Director of Human Resources
FROM: Dr. Rena Whitten, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
DATE: July 20, 2020
Re: Equity Student Leadership Club

Dr. Jones-Redmond,

At the heart of developing equitable learning environments is the idea of giving every student what they need to strive and grow. Groundwater-Smith (2011) stated that equity work in education must examine the experiences and perspectives of the students themselves. As our District continues the *D215 Equity in Action* initiative, we must empower and inspire students to lead through advocacy and agency.

To ensure input from our students is a part of our initiative, the members of the Equity Committee are requesting that you and our Board of Education approve the formation of the Student Equity Leadership Club. Additionally, we would like you to waive the two-year unpaid standard associated with the establishment of new clubs. Both these actions will allow our District to monitor the progress of the equity action plan, assess the impact on students, and incorporate student voice in our decision-making.

Here are a few suggestions/guidelines for the Equity Student Leadership Club:

- Meet two times per month
- Meetings should include discussions on equity, cultural relevance, evaluation of the school environment, and navigating current issues.
- Activities should include review and monitoring of equity action items, equity activities with peers, and opportunities to express student voice through leadership activities.

While the clubs would function independently at T. F. North and T.F. South, and T.F. Center, student representatives from each school, will meet with the Board of Education Equity Sub-committee to provide input into next steps.

Thank you for your consideration.