



# NASHOBA

NASHOBA Regional School Committee  
Diversity, Equity, Awareness, and Racial Justice Advisory  
Planning Roundtable  
Minutes  
November 2, 2021  
7:30 PM

Meeting Remote via Zoom Technology

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87140833497>

Meeting ID: 871 4083 3497

Present - Elizabeth Bendler, Laurie Burnett, Lindsay Chaves, Rhyllis Christopher, Greg Denson

- I. **Call to Order 7:32 pm** Laurie Burnett
- II. **Citizen's Comments** (Standing item where individuals not on the committee can come and comment on our work) No comments
- III. **Welcome and Introductions**
- IV. **Brainstorming/ Generating Ideas for DEARJ next steps**
  - Defining terms is important
  - Important to note in NRSC Protocols #11 - "School Committee members will vote according to their convictions, will avoid bias and will uphold and support the decisions of the majority of the Committee once a decision has been made" How could we support the school committee in learning about their bias ?
  - It is about people rather than race
  - How do we move awareness forward without stopping progress?
  - How do we support the having of difficult conversations that don't alienate people? Considerations:
    - It comes down to how things are facilitated
    - Is there anyone already leading this work at the district level?
    - What is already in place in the community?
    - We need to know what the district has already started to accomplish to know where we need to go with our work.

- Discussed High School and District ongoing DEI activities.
- Wondering what has been done since June 2020 commitments of the School Committee?
  - Entirely new administrative teams in the district
  - District provides support when difficult conversations happen
  - School committee puts out an updated resolution to reaffirm their commitment
  - We need to know where we came from in order to know where we're going
- Greg & Laurie meeting with HS students tomorrow for listening and learning session
- How do we support teachers in this work?
  - Culturally responsive teaching
  - What is the culture of the school committee? Of the different schools? How do we meet each where they are?
- Summary of our Brainstorming:
  - Recommitment and reaffirmation of what being an inclusive district means. What has been happening that has moved the work forward
  - Whole child approach

**V. Announcements/ Updates- None**

**VI. Items for future agendas (standing item to bring up future topics)**

- Next meeting November 10, 2021 @ 7:30 PM
- Will synthesize information from brainstorming sessions and finalize a presentation to the School Committee

**VII. Adjourn**

- Elizabeth moves to end meeting, Greg seconds
  - All vote aye

"The items listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law."