



NASHOBA



**NASHOBA Regional School Committee
Diversity, Equity, Acceptance and Racial Justice Advisory
Sub Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2021

8:00 PM

Meeting Remote via Zoom Technology

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85181402261?pwd=c2xkcHBxMVNvbVFyYbVRRMGpiOW12UT09>

Meeting ID: 851 8140 2261

Passcode: 804197

- I. **Call to Order:** 8:00pm by Elaine Sanfilippo
23 members present of 40 potential members
- II. **Citizen's Comments:** None
- III. **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N/A as this was the first meeting
- IV. **Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary:** With no objections, Elaine Sanfilippo requested postponing officer elections until after New Business. Committee consented to allow Ms. Sanfilippo to continue to preside
- V. **New Business**
 - a. Introductions: Laurie Burnett facilitated a small group exercise where random groups of 4 people discussed motivations, hopes and concerns of being involved in the Committee. A document with the questions and notes from each group is listed in the meeting materials
 - b. Discussion of structure: Open Meeting Laws and Authority: Elaine Sanfilippo explained that because the School Committee, a public body, created this group, it basically serves as advisors to the School Committee and those areas over which the School Committee has authority, namely Policy, Budget and Evaluation of the Superintendent. She provided illustrative examples such as determining if a policy is racist and changing it, doing research on black-owned banks so the School Committee could direct banking practices accordingly or providing input to the Superintendent's goal creation process.

In addition, Ms. Sanfilippo provided an overview of the Open Meeting Laws (supporting materials in the Meeting Materials) and said that training would be provided as we get going. This Advisory group is also considered a public body and thus meetings must be publicly accessible and content-based work cannot be done outside of publicly accessible meetings, with new exceptions.

- c. Other potential ways to participate (community groups, specific initiatives outside

this body): The group held a brief discussion of other groups, initiatives and activities held in our three communities that people may be interested in.

- d. Consent to share contact information among group members: A group listserv email address will be set up, and Elaine Sanfilippo asked anyone not comfortable with that to notify her. She also gave a reminder that emails to/from the group are considered public documents.

The group then returned to officer elections. It was suggested that we use a 3-month “trial period” to start with no objections. Elaine Sanfilippo nominated herself as Chair. Maura Bailey seconded the nomination. **Motion to elect Elaine Sanfilippo as Chair passed unanimously.** Elizabeth Bendler nominated herself as Vice Chair. Maura Bailey seconded. **Motion to elect Elizabeth Bendler as Vice Chair passed unanimously.** Christine O’Brien nominated herself as Secretary. Kelly Lawlor seconded. **Motion to elect Christine O’Brien as Secretary passed unanimously.**

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. None

VII. Announcements/Updates

- a. NRHS Mascot Update
 - i. Earlier in the fall, the district sent an open survey looking for suggestions for a new mascot after the School Committee voted to retire the Chieftain on 7/1/20. Administration and a pro bono agency HEARD Strategy narrowed suggestions to 9 options. A committee made up of teachers, students, administrations and alumni will discuss and name 3 finalists. More on the process to select the new mascot from the finalists will be forthcoming.
- b. Training
 - i. The School Committee is looking to conduct ongoing anti-bias and other equity-based training. There is a hope that this will extend to this group as well. Consensus was achieved that some form of ongoing education (members sharing their individual work, bringing in guest speakers, sharing of webinars, etc.) should be a regular part of meetings. Specifics and schedule to be discussed at future meetings
- c. Community Updates (standing item to announce/promote related events in the community)
- d. Items on future agendas (standing item to bring up future topics. Discussion as time permits about how the entire group feels about topic, and timing. “Parking lot” often used)
 - i. Creation of group norms, especially with large group where members likely won’t attend every meeting
 - ii. Discussed meeting frequency. Suggestions for monthly and bi-monthly. Nothing decided.

VIII. Adjourn: Olivia Liang moved to adjourn at 9:34pm. Elizabeth Bendler seconded. **Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**