

Anti-Bias Task Force Meeting Summary

*Syosset Central School District
January 9, 2024 - 8:00 to 9:30pm*

I. Opening

The inaugural meeting of the Syosset Anti-Bias Task Force took place virtually on January 9, 2024, due to inclement weather preventing an in-person gathering.

II. Attendees

The following individuals were present at the virtual meeting:

Chair persons

Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet, *North Shore Synagogue*
Pastor Rebecca Sheridan, *Faith Lutheran Church*
Dr. Uzma Syed, *Muslim Community Leader*

Members

Taiisha Calbert-Foster, *Syosset Teachers Association*
Rabbi Jason Fruithandler, *Woodbury Jewish Center*
Mikey Goodman, *Jewish Community of Syosset*
David Steinberg, *Syosset Principals Association*
Hilary Lucadamo, *Elementary School PTA*
Asma Malik, *Muslim American Community of Syosset*
Hafsa Mercan, *South Woods Middle School*
Zehran Muqtadir, *Syosset High School*
Tina Ng, *High School PTA*
Sharmin Panjvani, *Middle School PTA*
Chase Pendrick, *HBT Middle School*
Inna Ryu-Choi, *Korean American Friends of Syosset*
Aruneesh Salhotra, *Indian Parents of Syosset*
Kelly Zhang, *Chinese American Association of Syosset*

Imam Tanweer Ahmed, *Al Kawthar Institute*, was unable to attend the meeting.

Syosset Administration & Staff

Dr. Thomas Rogers, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Theresa Curry, *Deputy Superintendent of Schools*
Adam Kuranishi, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*
Philomena Hefferon, *Public Information Officer*

III. Objectives and Agenda

The primary objectives of the meeting were to make general introductions, review the Board of Education's charge for the task force, and set expectations for participation. Members of the Board of Education temporarily joined the meeting to thank the volunteers for their dedication to the task force.

IV. Proceedings

The meeting was held virtually due to poor weather conditions. The discussion began with each individual introducing themselves, including their affiliation with the Syosset community. Then, the task force co-chairs reviewed the Board's charge, which is to develop a list of recommendations for an anti-bias plan for implementation in the school district.

The group then set the goal of presenting recommendations to the Board of Education no later than April 2024. Their short term goal is to plan a public forum in the month of February to allow members of the community to share their ideas. The long term goal is to review the District's existing anti-bias initiatives, seek input from experts and non-profit groups, and create a system for data collection for accurately understanding the issue of bias in our District while remaining compliant with laws that protect student privacy.

Additionally, the group concluded it would create working groups to divide the workload for the volunteer members. The group assignments would be determined by the next meeting.

The group also established that task force updates and meeting summaries would be posted on the district website and shared via district messaging systems.

V. Closing

The task force determined they would meet in person during the week of January 15th to begin going through action items. Team-building exercises were planned to promote understanding among members.