

## **Anti-Bias Task Force Meeting Minutes**

*Syosset Central School District*

*January 24, 2024 - 7:30 to 9pm*

### **I. Opening**

The third meeting of the Syosset Anti-Bias Task Force took place in the South Woods Middle School library on January 24th, 2024.

### **II. Attendees**

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

#### **Chair persons**

Pastor Rebecca Sheridan, *Faith Lutheran Church*

Dr. Uzma Syed, *Muslim Community Leader*

#### **Members**

Imam Tanweer Ahmed, *Al Kawthar Institute*

Taiisha Calbert-Foster, *Syosset Teachers Association*

Mikey Goodman, *Jewish Community of Syosset*

David Steinberg, *Syosset Principals Association*

Asma Malik, *Muslim American Community of Syosset*

Zehran Muqtadi, *Syosset High School*

Tina Ng, *High School PTA*

Sharmin Panjvani, *Middle School PTA*

Jacqueline Braunstein, *Elementary PTA*

Chase Pendrick, *HBT Middle School*

Inna Ryu-Choi, *Korean American Friends of Syosset*

Kelly Zhang, *Chineses American Association of Syosset*

Leader Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet, *North Shore Synagogue*, and Aruneesh Salhotra, *Indian Parents of Syosset*, were unable to attend.

#### **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 objective of the meeting was for the members of the task force to break down into work groups to begin drilling into specific subject areas that will help form recommendations for the Board of Education.

#### **IV. Proceedings**

The meeting was held in the South Woods Middle School library. One member of the task force participated by phone.

The meeting began with an ice breaker. Each individual was asked to talk about a food that brings them comfort.

The next item on the agenda was to finalize the details of the community forum, which will be held the evening of Thursday, February 8th, including the format, room setup, and how we will ensure community members are aware of the event.

The larger group then broke down into subgroups and began discussions about the below topics:

1. Best practices and existing initiatives
  - Identify existing anti-bias initiatives and best practices from other communities, experts, community-based groups, and non-profit organizations dedicated to combating bias
2. Student Experience
  - Develop strategies for acquiring feedback from students to understand their experiences encountering bias
3. Family Partnerships
  - Develop strategies to engage parents, guardians, and families as partners in anti-bias action steps
4. Code of Conduct and DASA Reporting
  - a. Review the district's Code of Conduct, disciplinary process, accountability measures, and DASA reporting procedures and make recommendations regarding improvements
5. Data Collection
  - Research systems to collect meaningful data that will give the school community an accurate understanding of the district's climate as well as measure and evaluate outcomes

The sub-groups then presented their early findings to the larger group - and made plans to have smaller meetings to dive deeper into their subject areas.

#### **V. Closing**

The task force determined they would meet again the week of February 12th to discuss the findings of the community forum – as well as report back on their sub-group work.