

Anti-Bias Task Force Meeting Minutes

Syosset Central School District

March 19, 2024 - 5:30 to 7:30pm

I. Opening

The fifth meeting of the Syosset Anti-Bias Task Force took place in the South Woods Middle School library on March 19, 2024.

II. Attendees

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Chair persons

Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet, *North Shore Synagogue*

Pastor Rebecca Sheridan, *Faith Lutheran Church*

Members

Jacqueline Braunstein, *Elementary PTA*

Taiisha Calbert-Foster, *Syosset Teachers Association*

Rabbi Jason Fruithandler, *Woodbury Jewish Center*

Mikey Goodman, *Jewish Community of Syosset*

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*

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

David Steinberg, *Syosset Principals Association*

Kelly Zhang, *Chinese American Association of Syosset*

Imam Tanweer Ahmed, *Al Kawthar Institute*, and Chase Pendrick, *HBT Middle School* 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 review a draft version of the recommendations that the group will make to the Board.

IV. Proceedings

The meeting was held in the South Woods Middle School library.

The meeting began with a brief catch up. The larger group then broke down into three groups to discuss the working draft of the recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The working draft is made up of sub-group reports and research. The general consensus of the larger group was that the recommendations are strong, but the report needs to be refined.

Next, the groups split back up again to discuss specific types of bias that have or could occur in our school district. The prompt was to assess how the recommendations, if implemented, might have guided prevention or response to those bias incidents.

At sundown, the group broke fast together and shared a Ramadan Iftar.

V. Closing

The task force determined they would meet again the week of April 1st to review the refined draft recommendations, which will be presented to the Board at its meeting on April 16th. In the interim, the group leaders would refine the recommendations with the assistance of members of the District's administration.