

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Okemos Public Schools' Staff, Parents/Guardians, Community Members and Alumni:

As you know, Okemos Public Schools is a diversity enhanced district. Our diversity includes, but is not limited to: gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic, sexual orientation, religion, limited English proficient learners and special needs learners (including special education and gifted and talented). Together, we are committed to promoting the academic, social, emotional and behavioral success of **every** child.

Therefore, it's important for us to continue to examine and reflect on our relationships, the environment or culture within our schools and community, curriculum, pedagogy, policies and practices. As part of this continued focus and to inform our thinking and action, in the spring of 2014, a "Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee" was established to advise the superintendent, through diverse perspectives and experiences. This committee was recently renamed to better reflect the broad scope of our equity initiatives as the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Advisory Coalition.

Ultimately, the committee has served to enhance our understanding and to promote our intended outcome, the success of **every** child! Our advisory committee has been and will continue to be reflective of our broad range of diversity as listed above. Since the committee was established, we have had several members who have left the district, graduated from high school or felt they could no longer dedicate their time due to other commitments. In addition, we are looking to broaden the scope to now include OPS alumni. As a result, we now have several vacancies on the committee:

- Parents/Guardians (2)
- Community Members (2-4)
- Faculty (4)
- High School Students (3)
- OPS Alumni (3)

It is my hope that committee members will make the minimum of a two year commitment, recognizing there will be three or four evening meetings per year.

As stated previously, we are seeking diverse perspectives from individuals who share this same passion and vision for our diversity enhanced school community! Please consider being a member of this committee and engaging in this extremely important, relevant, ongoing and impactful conversation. If interested, please complete an [application](#) to assist us in identifying a diverse membership for the committee. To apply please click on this link: [Diversity Equity & Inclusion Advisory Coalition. Application](#). The deadline for completed applications is December 2, 2020.

Again, thank you for considering this opportunity!

Respectfully,

John J. Hood
Superintendent