

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Catherine J. Ash, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent

September 24, 2018

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

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, I established a "Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee". This committee was established to "advise" the Superintendent, through diverse perspectives and experiences. 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. As a result, we now have several vacancies on the committee:

- 2 staff members
- 4 parents/guardians and/or community members

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

As stated previously, I am 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. The deadline is October 15th.

Again, thank you for considering this opportunity!

Respectfully,

Catherine J. Ash

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OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee

Okemos Public Schools is seeking interested individuals to participate on the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee. This committee was established during the 2013-14 school year.

The committee includes:

- Parents/Guardians (4)
- Community members (2-4)
- Superintendent (1)
- Faculty (4)
- Board members (1)
- High school students (2)

The committee meets two to three times a year, unless more frequent meetings are necessary to accomplish the work.

Committee Vision and Intent:

As a diversity enhanced district, Okemos Public Schools needs to ensure that we are meeting the academic and behavioral needs of **ALL** of our students. As educators, we need to examine and reflect on our relationships, curriculum, pedagogy, policies and practices to promote the success of every child. Our diversity includes, but is not limited to: *gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic, sexual orientation, religion, limited English proficient learners, and special needs learners (special education; gifted and talented).*

Okemos Public Schools is committed to creating a culturally competent and responsive school environment where students, staff and community recognize, embrace, celebrate and value the diverse attributes of each other. The committee supports and enhances this effort by offering perspective to inform meaningful and relevant action throughout the Okemos Public Schools.

With the possible exception of the high school students, a minimum of a two year commitment is appreciated.

If you have an interest in serving on the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee, please forward your completed application to: Dr. Catherine J. Ash; 4406 N. Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48842 or submit electronically to rhianna.walworth@okemosk12.net.

DEADLINE: October 15, 2018

Your application will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, parent, administrator and teacher. You will be notified in writing about the status of your application no later than October 31, 2018.

If you need additional information, you are welcome to contact Dr. Catherine Ash at 706-5009 or catherine.ash@okemosk12.net.

Thank you for considering serving in this important role within our school community.

**Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee
Application**

Name

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Address

Occupation

Work Phone

Email Address

Please check an appropriate category (you may check more than one):

- Interested Citizen
- Parent/Guardian of Okemos student; Grade(s) and school(s) your child(ren) attend:

- Faculty
- High school student Grade

1. In your opinion, what is/are the top diversity challenge(s) facing the Okemos Public Schools?
2. What specific issues do you believe this committee should address? Please list in order of priority.
3. In your opinion, what strengths relating to cultural diversity do you believe exist within the Okemos Public Schools?
4. Provide a brief statement expressing why you have an interest in serving on the district's Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee?
5. What assets, background, past experiences, useful knowledge, etc., do you have that may assist this committee?
6. Are you willing to come regularly to two to three evening meetings per school year for a period of two years?

A reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that the advisory committee consists of members representing diverse experiences, backgrounds and viewpoints.

Applications are due by October 15, 2018 and should be mailed to:

**Dr. Catherine J. Ash
4406 N. Okemos Rd.
Okemos, MI 48842**

Or emailed to:

rhianna.walworth@okemosk12.net

Your application will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, parent/guardian, administrator and teacher. You will be notified in writing about the status of your application no later than October 31, 2018.

Again, thank you very much for your interest in participating in the process of creating a culturally competent and responsive school environment within Okemos Public Schools.