

# Superintendent's Report

School Board Meeting  
February 28, 2022



# Wallingford- Swarthmore School District

## Mission and Vision Statements



### **MISSION**

The Wallingford-Swarthmore School District is committed to assuring the academic achievement and personal growth of all students within an environment that promotes:

- Respect for self and others
- Active engagement in learning
- Leadership in the global community
- The pursuit of excellence

### **VISION**

Our vision is to develop a world-class school district that provides students with the skills to succeed in a changing global environment. This vision will be realized through a commitment to high-quality programs and continuous improvement based upon careful analysis and integration of the most effective practices.

# World Crisis



Focus Topics  
for Discussion

# Focus Topics

Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore  
Schools- Ms. Frannie Reilly, President

Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)

Strath Haven Middle School - Dr.  
Matsanka and team

Safety and Security - Mr. Fox



# Covid Dashboard Data

Last Updated  
February 28, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

## Masking Status

SHHS: **Optional**  
 SHMS/District Office: **Optional**  
 NPE: **Optional**  
 SRS: **Required**  
 WES: **Optional**

## Incidence Rate

SHHS: 0.20%  
 SHMS/District Office: 0.30%  
 NPE: 0.35%  
 SRS: 0.79%  
 WES: 0.32%

## Daily New Cases - 14 Day Window

	HS	MS	NPE	SRS	WES	Transp	Op	Total
2/28/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/27/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/26/2022	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2/25/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/24/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/23/2022	-	1	* Note	-	-	-	-	1
2/22/2022	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
2/21/2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/20/2022	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
2/19/2022	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
2/18/2022	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
2/17/2022	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
2/16/2022	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
2/15/2022	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

Since our transition to mask-optional on February 7th at SHHS, and subsequent transition at WES, NPE and SHMS, rates across these buildings have remained below 0.2% to a high of 0.5%.

- Strath Haven High School is in its third week of mask-optional and is currently under 0.25% incidence rate.
- Nether Providence Elementary is in its second week and is currently under 0.4%.
- Wallingford Elementary is in its second week and is currently under 0.35%.
- Strath Haven Middle School is in its first week of mask-optional and is currently at 0.5%
- Swarthmore-Rutledge is currently at 1.10% and has been below 2% for 9 days.



# New CDC Guidance Released

Friday February  
25

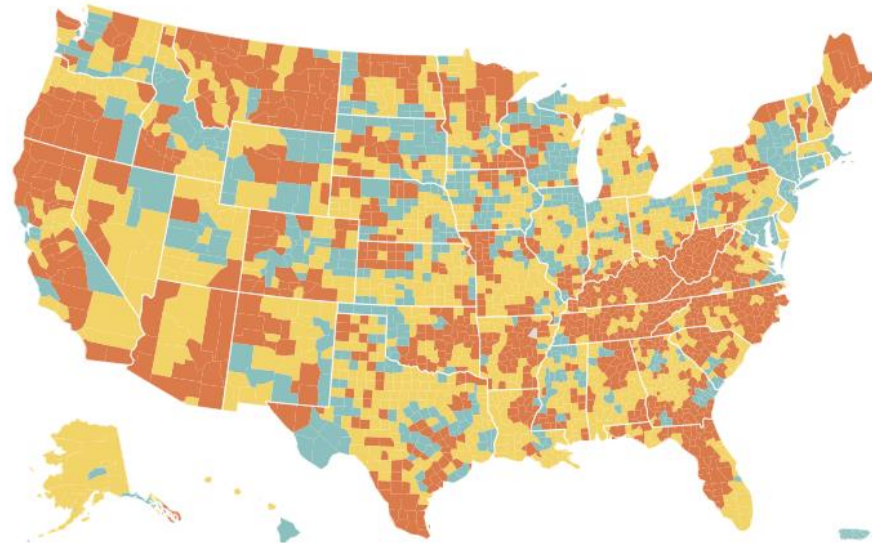


*“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Friday, it is relaxing its mask guidance for communities where hospitals aren't under high strain. Under the new guidance, nearly 70% of the U.S. population lives in an area **considered to be low or medium risk**, and residents there are advised they can go indoors without masks. The CDC recommends continued mask use in communities where serious cases of COVID-19 are straining the health system.”*

## County-level COVID-19 Community Levels

This is a new CDC metric that factors in new COVID-19 hospitalizations, existing hospital capacity and new cases in an area. Data as of Feb. 24.

■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ No data



# Health and Safety



The CDC director, Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky stated “We want to give people a break from things like masking when our levels are low, and then have the ability to reach for them again should things get worse in the future. We need to be prepared and we need to be ready for what comes next.”

1. *CDC recommends mask-wearing for indoor public settings, including schools, only in communities with high levels of disease.*
1. *In communities with medium levels, CDC recommends people at high risk for illness — including those who are immunocompromised or have underlying medical conditions — consult with their health-care providers and consider wearing a mask.*
1. *In communities with low levels of disease, high-risk individuals can consult with their providers and wear masks as needed.*
1. *CDC is changing its school guidance based on the new county metrics; it is recommending universal school masking only in communities with high levels of diseases.*

# New CDC Guidance

## What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li><li>• Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li></ul>

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).





# Health and Safety



## Know Your COVID-19 Community Level

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area.



### COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county.

Select a Location (all fields required)

Pennsylvania



Delaware County



Go

[< Start Over](#)

#### ● Medium

In Delaware County, Pennsylvania, community level is **Medium**.

- If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms

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If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).

# Health and Safety



## What does this Guidance mean for our Health and Safety Plan?

- The district will continue to implement mitigations strategies identified in our Health and Safety Plan
- The district will continue to monitor community building levels per our 14 day rolling incident rate to determine if any modifications are required
- SRS will move to mask optional March 3, 2022
- Effective March 3, 2022 all district transportation will move to mask optional as the federal mandate has been lifted for K-12 schools

# Equity Audit

The focus of an equity audit is to view the district's practices through a data analysis of **Academic, Behavioral** and **Opportunity metrics** and the **perceptions of stakeholders**.

For WSSD, the equity audit was completed through **three concurrent research projects**





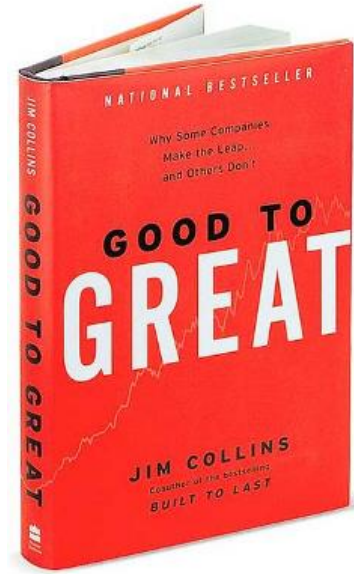
“Your desire to change must be greater than your desire to stay the same.”

- Unknown

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

- Organizational Changes
- Programmatic Changes
- Pedagogical Changes
- Leadership Changes
- Cultural Changes



*Greatness is not a function of circumstances. Greatness is largely a matter of conscious choice and discipline* –Jim Collins



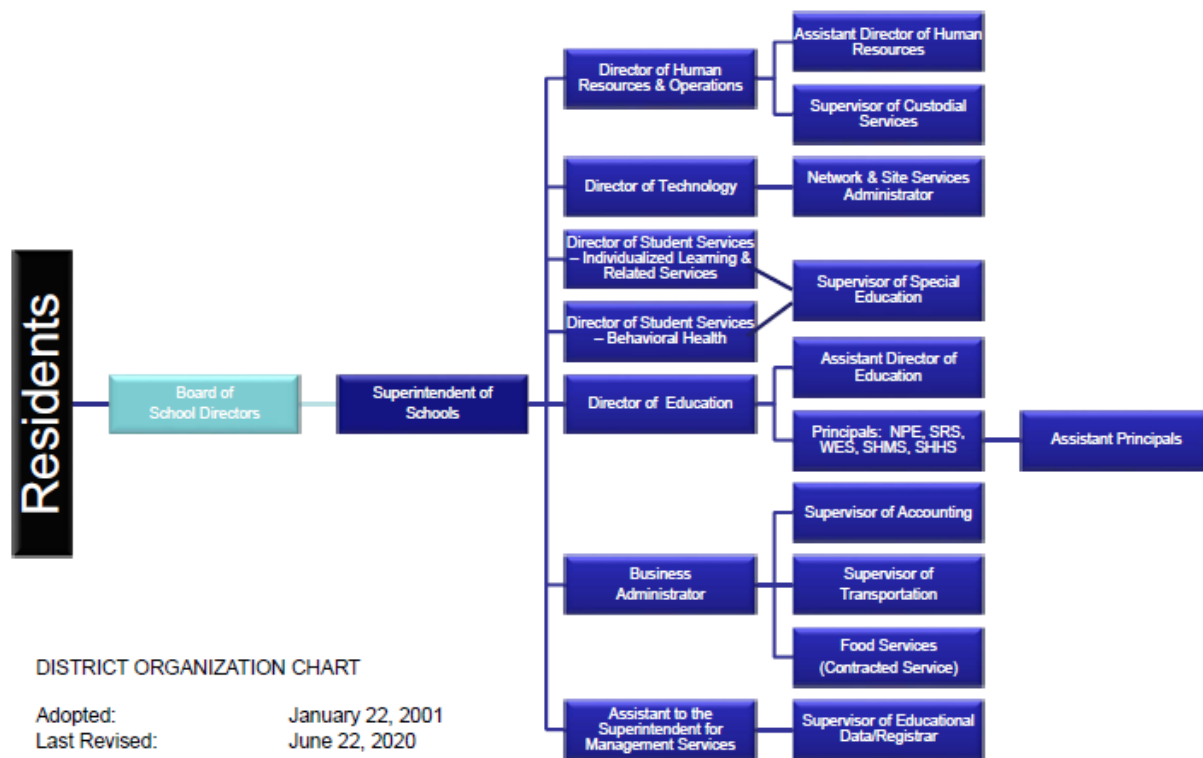
Buildup .....

**Breakthrough!**

Disciplined  
People

Disciplined  
Thought

Disciplined  
Action



DISTRICT ORGANIZATION CHART

Adopted: January 22, 2001  
 Last Revised: June 22, 2020



I'm proposing several changes to our administrative positions and organization, with the overarching goal of supporting student achievement and strengthening our school district. The specific goals of these changes include:

- Aligning our work to ensure each department is **fulfilling its educational mission**, and create a stronger structure to help us implement the goals and **objectives of our strategic plan**.
- Providing a **clear hierarchy of responsibilities and communication**, along with **more clearly defined roles**
- Providing more cohesiveness and collaboration (eliminating the 'silo' approach) as we work to **address programmatic and educational challenges**
- Accelerating **student outcomes, narrowing gaps**, and better leveraging the district's strengths
- Building and strengthening an aligned, consistent, **high-quality, equitable curriculum and school community**



## **Recommendation comes after a thorough data review:**

Months of study

Analysis of achievement data

Analysis of WSSD equity data from Hanover Research

Multiple focus groups, small group meetings, individual conversations

1. A need to increase our curricular programming, innovation and rigor that create multiple career pathways for all students
2. A need to more deliberately address the challenges of Diversity, Equity, Cultural Proficiency, Inclusion and Belonging
3. A need to strengthen and improve counseling services and support our students' mental and emotional health, and continue with trauma-informed practices
4. A need for significant improvement in student outcomes, especially those in historically underperforming, marginalized subgroups (students of color, special education students, and economically disadvantaged students)
5. A need to provide increased support to our staff/teachers so they can best help our students and strengthen family partnerships





# Recommendation comes after a thorough data review:

Months of study

Analysis of achievement data

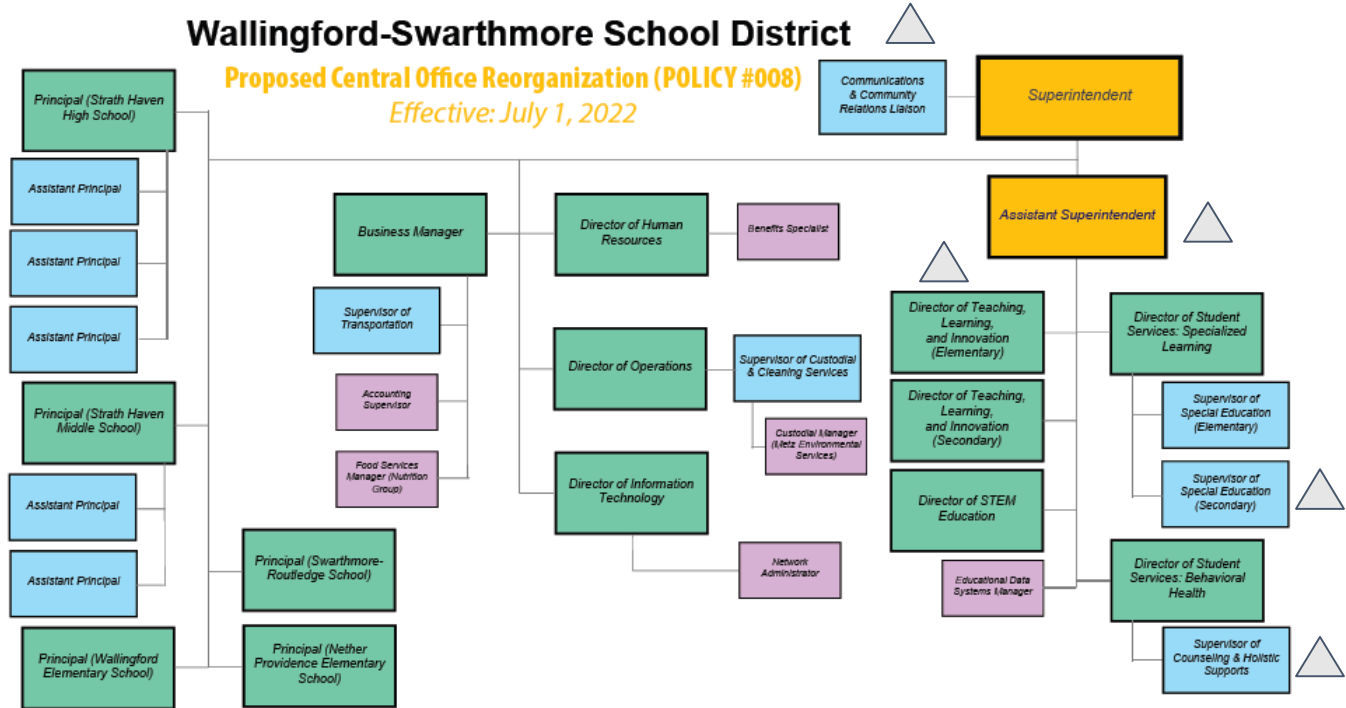
Analysis of WSSD equity data from Hanover Research

Multiple focus groups, small group meetings, individual conversations

## Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

### Proposed Central Office Reorganization (POLICY #008)

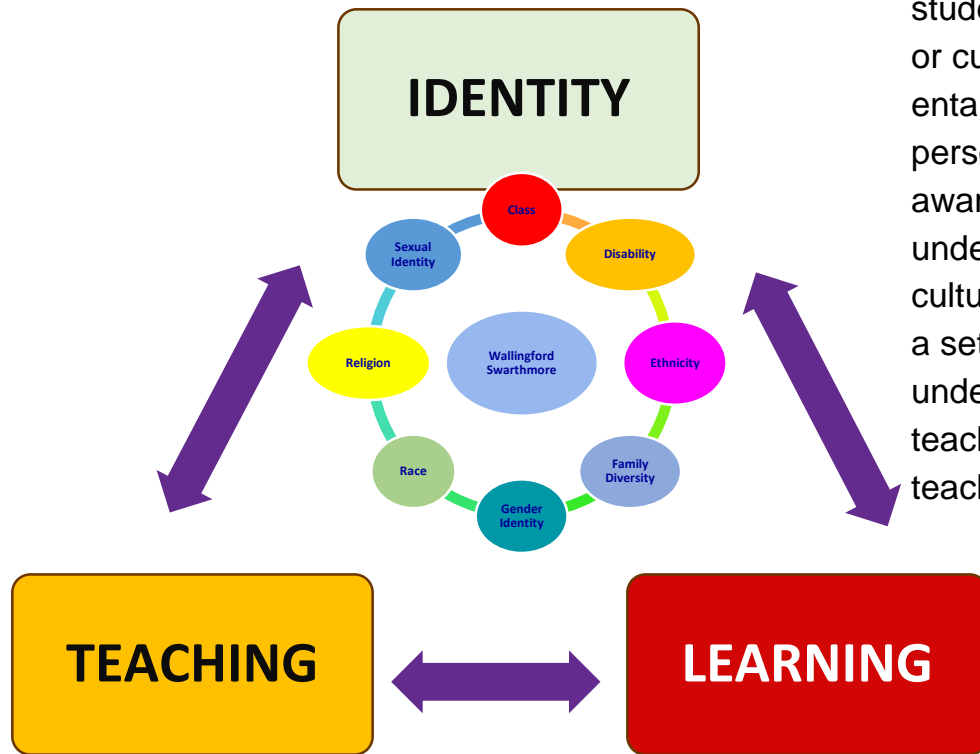
Effective: July 1, 2022



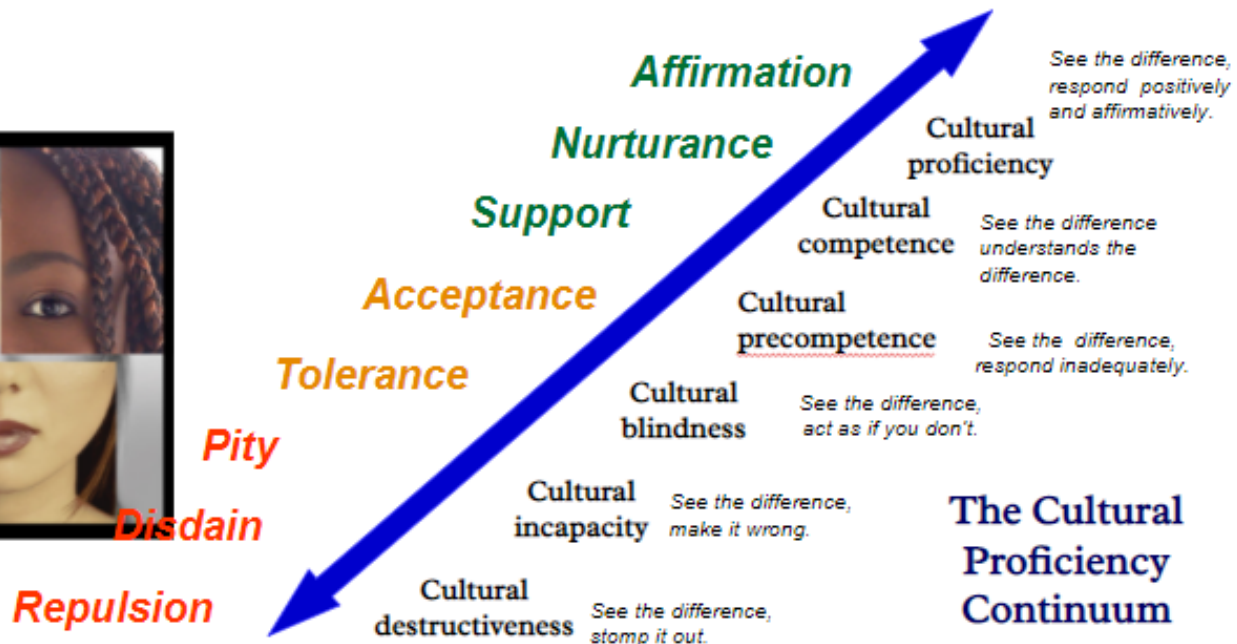
# The School Environment has an Impact on Our Identities which Influences Teaching & Learning



**Cultural competence** is the ability to successfully teach students who come from a culture or cultures other than our own. It entails developing certain personal and interpersonal awareness and sensitivities, understanding certain bodies of cultural knowledge, and mastering a set of skills that, taken together, underlie effective cross-cultural teaching and culturally responsive teaching.



# Our Responses to Sociocultural Differences (in regard to ourselves and other people)



Adapted from Riddle, 1994

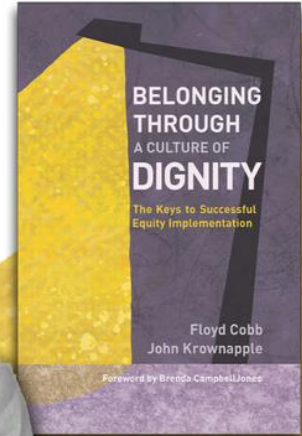
Cross, Bazron, Dennis, & Isaacs, 1989





*“We define belonging as the extent to which people feel appreciated, validated, accepted and treated fairly within an environment (e.g. school, classroom, or work). When students feel that they belong, they aren't worried and distracted about being treated as a stereotype or a thin slice of their multidimensional identities.”*

**To bring about educational equity, every student must experience access and belonging.**



# ① Equity

**Equity** in education is defined as every student having access to the resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, family background and/or family income. (adapted from [www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org))

# ② Inclusion

**Inclusion** is defined as engagement within a community where the equal worth and inherent dignity of each person is honored. An inclusive community promotes and sustains a sense of belonging. (adapted from Cobb & Krownapple, 2019)

# ③ Belonging

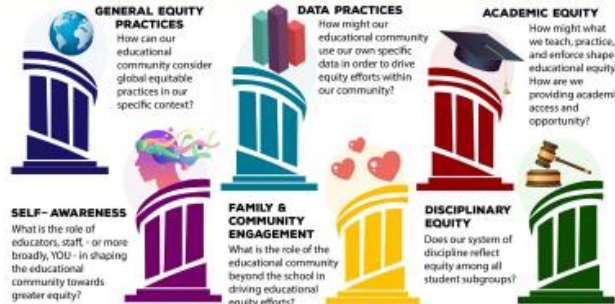
**Belonging** is defined as experiencing appreciation, validation, acceptance, and fair treatment within an environment. (adapted from Cobb & Krownapple, 2019)



## EQUITABLE PRACTICES HUB

To do their best, students must feel safe at school. A healthy and safe environment can help students thrive, and every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression should be provided the opportunity to learn - free from discrimination, fear, or harassment.

## EQUITY PILLARS



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[www.education.pa.gov/EquityHub](http://www.education.pa.gov/EquityHub)

ecosystem

Parents/Guardians

Students

Staff

Administration

Board of School  
Directors

Community



# Committee Meetings

## **Educational Affairs Committee - Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

- Equity Audit Report - Hanover Research

## **Facilities and Finance Meeting - Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

## **Policy Committee - Wednesday, March 22, 2022**

**7: 00 p.m.**

**B-226 Teaching & Learning Center  
Strath Haven Middle School**

