To Our Valued Community Members, Families, Staff and Students:

The Sumner-Bonney Lake School District stands committed to providing an excellent education for every student. As one of the fastest growing school districts in Pierce County, our demographics are changing at a rapid pace. This change requires our ongoing focus and a strategic approach to the increasing diversity in our schools. Therefore, we are continuing to draw key stakeholders together to examine issue of racial equity in our schools and identify ways that will improve the educational experience for every student. Members of the Equity Advisory Council play a critical role in providing input that will help direct future actions and decisions of the district.

We are using an application process to fill vacant positions on this Council, in order to better understand who would like to be involved and the perspectives they will bring to our discussions.

As you consider serving on our Equity Advisory Council, we’d like you to know our core beliefs, as well as the scope of work we hope to accomplish in the coming school year.

Thank you for your interest in our District’s work on equity.

Laurie Dent, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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**Our Beliefs:** The Sumner-Bonney Lake School District believes that every student deserves the opportunity to attend our schools, to feel safe and to learn – without the fear of harassment, intimidation or bullying – no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status or ability. We are committed to ensuring that our learning environments are a place where everyone, students and staff alike, are welcomed with a sense of belonging.

**Our Tasks:** The work of this Equity Advisory Council will involve examining issues relating to equity among our District’s students that have challenged what we believe all students should experience in our schools. The goal of this work is to create an anti-bias response system to be used in our schools. We also anticipate developing additional recommendations for our School Board regarding further actions that are needed to ensure safe and welcoming school environments.

**Our Short-Term Timeline:** The membership timeline for individuals serving on this Advisory Council will run from September 2020 through June 2021. We anticipate holding five meetings with some additional assignments between our sessions.

**Our Long-Term Work:** The District is engaged in a multi-year initiative that includes in-depth research and planning, intended to produce a sustainable strategy for immediate and long-term action. Members selected for this group will have the opportunity to reapply for future advisory group roles, pending the approval of the Board of Directors and Superintendent.

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**Reminder:** Please complete and submit the following application form to Marilee Hill-Anderson on or before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Applications will be reviewed by representatives of the Superintendent’s Office for the purpose of selecting Advisory Council members. Information on applications will be regarded as personal and confidential.
Applicants will be notified about the status of their role with the Task Force by email or phone no later than Friday, September 25, 2020.

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Please check all that apply:

- I am a parent or guardian of a child/children attending Sumner-Bonney Lake School District schools.
  - School Name and Grade: ______________________________
  - School Name and Grade: ______________________________
  - School Name and Grade: ______________________________
  - School Name and Grade: ______________________________

- I am an employee of the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District:
  - Location/Position Title: ______________________________
  - Other Relevant Experience: ____________________________

- I am a student in the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District:
  - School I attend: _________________________________
  - Grade: _______________________________________

- I am an interested community member representing __________________________

Optional Information Requested: In an effort to support our goal of ensuring our Council represents the diverse perspectives of Sumner-Bonney Lake School District students, families and staff, please check as many categories that apply:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black / African American
- Hispanic / Latino of any race(s)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races
- Prefer not to answer
Questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Equity Advisory Council?

2. Please describe any perspectives and experiences you could bring to the Equity Advisory Council that will help our District and schools enhance a safe and welcoming school environment for our students and staff.

3. What do you think are some of the issues and challenges related to equity that are faced by students in our local schools?

4. What else do you think is important to attend to in Sumner-Bonney Lake School District in terms of equity?

5. Are you able to attend and participate in each of the scheduled Equity Advisory Council meetings? Yes___ No___ (Tentative Dates and Times – Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm – September 29, 2020; November 17, 2020; January 19, 2021; March 23, 2021; and May 18, 2021.)
6. Are there any accommodations you will need to successfully participate in the Advisory Council meetings? If so, please describe. Please know it is our goal to create a comfortable environment for our sessions, where all members may fully take part in discussions.

Please return applications to:

Marilee Hill-Anderson  
Director of Engagement, Equity and Homeless Services  
Sumner-Bonney Lake School District #320  
1202 Wood Avenue - Sumner, WA 98390  
Office Phone: 253-891-6032  
marilee_hill-anderson@sumnersd.org

Thank you again for your time and interest in ensuring our schools support our students!