

MPS seeks to increase business opportunities

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The Minneapolis Board of Education on September 14 voted to implement a policy that will enhance equal employment and business opportunities for minorities, women and diverse communities. Policy 3310: Business Partner Diversity promotes the participation of businesses owned and operated by minorities, women and diverse communities in school district procurement and contracts for goods and services. The policy is a proactive effort of the Minneapolis Public School district to partner with and foster economic development in the Minneapolis community.

In light of this policy, the board established the Minority, Women and Diverse Business Participation Oversight Committee for the construction of the new MPS Educational Service Center. The committee is composed of five voting members and two Minneapolis school board members. Committee members include Velma Korbel, Director, City of Minneapolis, Civil Rights Department; Luz Maria Frias, Director, City of St. Paul, Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Department; Craig Taylor, Director, Office of Business and Community Economic Development, University of Minnesota; Jordan Park Community Representative, who will be designated by the Office of Councilmember Don Samuels; and Bishop Richard D. Howell, Jr., Bishop, Shiloh Temple International Ministries.

It will convene periodically to monitor and evaluate the participation of minority, women and diverse businesses in the construction of the Educational Service Center as well as review reports provided by the MPS Office of Equity and Diversity. The committee will also be charged with certifying that MPS met or exceeded its minority, women and diverse business participation goals for the construction.

“The Minneapolis Public Schools are grateful for the strong support of the community for this project,” said MPS Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson. “We pledge to use this investment of public resources to help all children succeed and benefit local businesses and residents.”