

Irvington UFSD to Host Equity Town Hall on June 14th, 2022

May 24, 2022

Dear School Community Members,

The District's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion has been and continues to be a top priority. Over the course of the past two years, the District has launched a series of impactful objectives to ensure that our schools are welcoming spaces for every student and their families, while embracing and honoring each person's identity, history, and individuality.

This work includes a strategic, tiered approach that provides necessary professional learning, is leading to curricular updates where appropriate, and is informing reviews of applicable policies and practices. Informing much of this work is the results of a <u>root cause analysis</u> that was performed by NYU and was presented to the public.

An essential component of guiding the necessary growth in the school community is a dialogue within the school community on the topic of equity, as individual voices and experiences will enrich all local efforts.

The District is pleased to announce that it will host an Equity Town Hall on Tuesday, June 14th, 7:00 pm in the Dows Lane gymnasium.

This important event will be facilitated by Dr. Alexandria Connally. Dr. Connally is the founder of Culturally Responsive Environments and Discipline (CREAD) and has served in numerous educational leadership roles and as an advisor to multiple state and federal officials. Please see Dr. Connally's complete bio below.

All community members are encouraged to attend. To help inform planning, those who plan to attend are asked to register by Tuesday, June 7th, 4:00 pm by clicking here. Additionally, free childcare will be provided for those who register.

I hope to see you at this important event and look forward to learning from and with everyone.

Sincerely yours,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison Superintendent of Schools

More on Dr. Alexandria Connally

Dr. Alexandria Connally has dedicated herself to empowering students and improving the quality of education for all children. Currently, Alexandria serves as the assistant to Regent Francis Wills. Formally, she was the assistant to Regent Judith Johnson, former

Assistant Secretary of Education of Elementary and Secondary during the Clinton Administration. In her role, Alexandria helped to shape the Committee of Equity, Integration, and Diversity. Alexandria also served as the Youth Voices Advocacy Program facilitator to the New York State Board of Regents Chancellor, Dr. Betty Rosa. Dr. Connally was a leader of the Yonkers My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Under her direction, the program has received state and national recognition.

Dr. Connally is the founder and CEO of Culturally Responsive Environments and Discipline (CREAD). She has worked with educational institutions, libraries, and nonprofit organizations to address issues of inequity.

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