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STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES EQUITY POLICY

(December 7, 2009) The Stamford Board of Education has approved an equity policy aimed at raising the achievement of all students in the district. The policy, #5000.1, is part of the ‘Students’ series. It reads in part, “Stamford Public Schools is committed to educational equity for all its students. Equity is defined as the commitment to provide full access to opportunities and a distribution of resources that enables each and every student to achieve educational excellence and civic responsibility.” The entire equity policy can be viewed on the district website at <http://stamfordpublicschools.org/content/68/107/801/default.aspx>

Unlike many public school districts, the Board opted to create a policy rather than a statement in order to demonstrate its permanent commitment to the equity goal. According to Board of Education President Jackie Heftman, “Educational equity is raising the achievement of all students while narrowing the gaps between the highest and lowest performing students. It also involves eliminating the disproportional representation of particular racial groups in the highest or lowest achievement categories.”

In creating the equity policy, Board members conducted several roundtable meetings in which they received input from parents, staff, students, and community members. The final policy, which the Board approved in November 2009, is the result of those discussions and represents every effort to reflect the values and beliefs of the greater Stamford community.

“I’m very proud that the Board of Education went through a long process of researching best practices in other school districts and examining the issues here in Stamford,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr. “As a result, they produced a policy that unequivocally states the direction our district must follow in the future to serve all students.”

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