

**12/2/20**

**Report out to BOE:**

The REAIC has deep concerns about the ways in which racial equity is being pitted against all other concerns. This is a logical fallacy because equity for all does not take away from anyone. We are keenly aware that structural racism is so deeply embedded in our systems that, like the frame of a house, we do not always see it. Everyone benefits when we seek and achieve equity, when we build a house without shame at the foundation. Especially in these challenging times, we must hold ourselves and one another to the highest possible standards. A hierarchy of needs and a commitment to working for the good of all students reveal to our children and community what our essential commitments are - if we are not equitable or just in our actions, what are we teaching not only in the classroom but through our district (and BOE?) leadership?

REIAC:

<https://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY01000611/Centricity/Domain/1042/REIAC%20Charge%20BOE%20revised%205-22-19.pdf>

In accordance with our Initial Charge and Immediate Priorities as laid out in our NPCSD BOE documentation (linked above), we would like to raise the following targeted questions with respect to our District operation under the COVID-19 pandemic, to highlight our concerns of far reaching adverse impacts regarding educational attainment for all our students, but especially for our most marginalized, at-risk and vulnerable students even after schooling returns to a fully in-person set up.

As students return to school buildings in a hybrid in-person and remote set up, we are concerned about the following items:

1. How will students who don't want to (and or can't) wear masks be handled?
2. How will mask related referrals be coded in the discipline systems? Will there be a district-wide discussion/policy, or will it be handled on a building by building basis and how will these policies be communicated to teachers, students and parents?
3. How will students who are not actively participating in lessons being assessed?
4. How are ENL, Special Education, and at risk or other vulnerable student populations being supported?
5. Is the district gathering data to better understand how teaching and learning under covid is disproportionately impacting our most vulnerable students? In particular...
  - a. *This year:* How will learning assessment be tracked for students and how will the data be analyzed to understand patterns of inequity with respect to who has fallen behind during this school year?

- b. *Planning for the future:* How will the school district work to catch students up who have fallen behind through the course of the school year?

**Announcement:**

New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Committee will be getting feedback from REIAC at the upcoming meeting in December. We would like to solicit feedback from NPCSD students and parents regarding your experiences with the New Paltz Police department or officers, to be shared with the NPPRRC. We welcome your thoughts, experiences and stories. If you would like to share with us (so that we may pass along your anonymized experience), please reach out via: [reiacmembers@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:reiacmembers@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)