

### Diversity Is Good!

Where would we be without diversity?

Something that includes not only them, but both you and me.

We wouldn't have variety, or change or ethnic differences.

We wouldn't be able to enjoy each other's accomplishments.

Importance would be diminished of what each person has to say.

We wouldn't be able to flourish in an environment like the USA.

Without all of the different people we encounter where would we be?

We certainly wouldn't enjoy celebrating events like Hispanic Heritage or Black History

No matter where you are, diversity is in your face.

It's in our neighborhoods, our churches and in the marketplace.

We need to have awareness of others all around us.

Something we must all learn and practice is others' acceptance.

What if you couldn't share your ideas, your thoughts or your dreams.

You would slowly die inside, feeling your life lacks any meaning.

We can't just talk about diversity, but it must be in our thinking and in our actions.

No one group of people can get in their mind that they are the main attraction.

It is a wonderful thing to live where there is such diversity.

### ACPS DIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Erin Begley	ACHS
Julia Payne	ACHS
Laurel Snaup	ACHS
Paulette Williams	Amelon
Wanda Smith	Amherst Elem
	AMS
Shari Procopio	Central
Tiffany Burchette	Elon
Carmen Sitton	Madison Heights
	Monelison
	Pleasant View/ Temperance
Nelzina Wood	Educational Center
David Clay	Community
Debra Crawley	Community
Cori Davis	Community
Beverly Jones	Community
Francisco Mayo	Community
John Norwood	Community
Thomas Smith	Community
Trinta Turner	Community
Merredith Watkins	MHES
Dr. Steven Nichols	Superintendent of ACPS

"We have become not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."

Jimmy Carter

## AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# DIVERSITY COUNCIL



# ACPS DIVERSITY COUNCIL

---



In 2007, Superintendent of ACPS, Dr. John Walker, established a Diversity Council comprised of community members, students, administrators and school board members to address diversity and the multicultural aspects of our school system.

In 2008, Dr. Ratliff, Superintendent of ACPS and endorsed by the Amherst County School Board, continued this project with the creation of the ACPS Diversity Council to develop a framework of equity for all students. Dr. Ratliff's vision is "not about equalizing outcomes, but equalizing the opportunities for all students to succeed".

Parents, community leaders, students, teachers and school staff serve on the council. Training was provided by the Stillwater Institute of Social Justice.



## Our Mission

Amherst County Public Schools Diversity Council is committed to acknowledging and addressing barriers to student achievement and creating an educational community that promotes awareness, acceptance and appreciation of cultural differences in a diverse society.

## Our Vision

The vision of Amherst County Public Schools Diversity Council envisions a school system that recognizes and seeks to understand economic, racial and cultural differences of students with the goal of enabling their potential.

We will provide guidelines, strategies, and tools to support areas of teaching practices, teacher recruitment and retention and parental involvement.

## Committees

- Diversity Training for Teachers
- Parental Involvement
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Teaching Practices



## Our Goals

To close the achievement gap with students of color, students with disabilities, students with English as a second language and students who are economically disadvantaged.

To provide training and professional development for all staff in culturally competency, creating culturally responsive schools, fostering culturally responsive teaching to promote improved school performance.

To let go of biases and move forward one person at a time .

To act with compassion, peace and understanding toward all people.

**Diversity** is acknowledging individual differences and creating an inclusive educational community that promotes awareness, acceptance and appreciation of the uniqueness of individuals in a diverse society.