

**Meeting Agenda**  
**April 15, 2026**  
**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission**  
**School Board Conference Room**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall**  
**116 West Beverley St.**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

**Proposed Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. DEI Commission Meeting – March 18, 2026
- 2. Discussion of DEI Commission Goals/Objectives**
- 3. Subcommittee Report Outs**
  - a. Community Connections
  - b. Data and Research
- 4. Going ‘Round the Circle!**
- 5. Other Business**

**Adjournment**

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION**

Meeting

March 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

School Board Conference Room

City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

PRESENT: Raven Bruno  
Sabrina Burress  
Ian Callahan  
Cecilia Carpenter  
Mark Jeter, Vice Chair  
Charles Lawson  
AnhThu Nguyen, Chair  
Belinda Osario Polgar  
Natalie Slater  
Antwhon Suiter  
Jordan Zipser

ABSENT: Leslie Beauregard, City Manager  
Alice Woods, Council Liaison

ALSO PRESENT: Josh Knight, Engagement & Communications  
Morgan Smith, City Manager’s Office

AnhThu Nguyen called the meeting open at 6 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Sabrina Burress moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 DEI Commission meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Charles Lawson and carried unanimously.

**2. Introductions**

- Raven Bruno is new to Staunton, originally from Charlottesville. She believes that the Staunton community is welcome. She is a sociology professor at Piedmont Virginia Community College. She has two children, 10 and 13, in the Staunton City Schools. She believes that it is important to participate in DEI and that she wants to bring the lens of a mother to the commission.
- Antwhon Suiter is a native of this area, having lived in Fishersville, Waynesboro, and finally Staunton. He is a graduate of Staunton High School. He is working on earning his associate’s degree from Blue Ridge Community College in Criminal Justice. He feels that the commission is a way to invest himself in the community. He does have four brothers.
- The commission then shared their names, title, and subcommittee.
- Subcommittee Overview: Members clarified the roles of the two primary subcommittees for new members. Community Connections – Outward-facing, connects the broader

50 community to DEI initiatives. Data and Research: Internal-facing, provides advisory  
51 support and data analysis for city-led initiatives.  
52  
53

### 54 **3. Subcommittee Report Outs**

55 **a.** Community Connections – the subcommittee shared that Fred Blanton from the  
56 Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee came to them with DEI concerns. He  
57 has requested that the commission support LCWAC by helping boost the event and  
58 taking his request for more city support to City Council.

59 **i.** This conversation continued with how DEI can help other boards and  
60 commissions. This also brought the subcommittee to think about  
61 refocusing their mutual aid community event into broader outreach. There  
62 was discussion of integrating the needs and challenges of other boards and  
63 commissions into the DEI Commission’s formal recommendations to the  
64 city.

65 **b.** Data and Research shared that they’re in a holding pattern in regards to city  
66 onboarding. What would that content look like, where is it DEI related, etc. They  
67 would like to build a very basic structure with foundational education and more  
68 detail about the Staunton community. They want to talk about who joins that  
69 conversation and who in the community could provide education on DEI topics.

70 **i.** The history of Staunton informs the work of the DEI Commission  
71

### 72 **4. Going ‘Round the Circle!**

73 **a.** Earth Day is April 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Gypsy Hill Park

74 **b.** Trans Day of Visibility is March 31, 5 p.m. at the LGBTQ Center  
75

### 76 **5. Other Business**

77 **a.** AnhThu encouraged everyone to take a look at the community survey to see what  
78 information that they can glean from the results.

79 **b.** Discussion ensued regarding the city using more inclusive language in their  
80 communication and working better with the deaf community.  
81  
82

### 83 **Adjournment**

84  
85 The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.