



## ESPO Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

### **Welcome and ESPO Updates**

*Shawn Marie Pelak, Interim Chair*

### **Head of School Update**

*John Huber, Head of School*

### **Presentation: Emerson School Equity & Social Justice Commitment**

*Carol Kelly, Emerson School Diversity Coordinator & 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher*

#### ***Equity & Social Justice Commitment***

As we become effective advocates for positive change, we foster growing minds with compassion and encourage resilience. We cherish individual identities. We actively challenge stereotypes and bias. We encourage discussion and inquiry about our world while we teach to dismantle the systems that perpetuate injustice.

Emerson School<sup>1</sup> honors the dignity of all people through our commitment to diversity,<sup>2</sup> inclusivity, equity, and social justice.

#### ***About the Speaker***

Carol's work for equity and justice began in her youth and continues today as an educator and author. Her teaching is guided by bell hooks, who wrote "To teach in a manner that respects and cares for the souls of our students is essential if we are to provide the necessary conditions where learning can most deeply and intimately begin." She is focused on how to teach children about the inequities in life in a way that respects and honors their souls, so that they can become effective advocates for justice, equipped to face the challenges they will encounter in life. Carol holds an MA in Women's and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University and remains actively engaged in professional development opportunities within the field.

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<sup>1</sup> Clarify: "Emerson School" includes all members of the community: teachers, parents, staff and students are active supporters of our statement.

<sup>2</sup> Clarify: Diversity refers to all forms of a person's identity. This includes (but is not limited to) race, ethnicity, religion, spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, family structure, socio-economic status, and nationality.

**ESPO Budget Report**

*Cindy Woo, Treasurer*

**Emerson Family Dinners Announcement**

*Patty Petrowski, Parent Volunteer & 3rd Grade Representative*

**Annual Fund & Auction Update**

*Lorna Hildebrandt, Director of Development*

**Adjournment**