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ROS board members named to Oakland County K-12 diversity and inclusion task force

Work of countywide schools committee to complement ongoing diversity and inclusion efforts at Royal Oak Schools

ROYAL OAK, Mich. — Royal Oak Schools Board of Education members **Deborah Anderson** and **Maryanne VanHaitsma** have been named to the **Oakland County School Boards Association Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**. The committee's mission is to help remove systemic barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion in all Oakland County K-12 public schools.

"The work of the countywide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will complement [our continued efforts](#) at Royal Oak Schools to create a learning environment that promotes diversity and inclusion, prioritizes equity and fairness, and helps all students succeed," said **Mary Beth Fitzpatrick**, Royal Oak Schools superintendent. "I am confident Deborah and Maryanne will return with fresh ideas and strategies that will help our continued efforts to provide a safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment for all our students."

The countywide committee's goals are to:

- Build understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion in K-12 education
- Define barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion in Oakland County schools
- Share and highlight best practices for addressing diversity, equity and inclusion among Oakland County districts, and
- Develop recommendations to the Oakland County School Boards Association board



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“I am honored to work with my Oakland County colleagues to discuss strategies to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the county’s K-12 public schools,” said Anderson, Royal Oak Schools board treasurer. “I am excited to draw on the experience and expertise of board members in other communities to help inform our continued efforts to address social equity at Royal Oak Schools.”

“At Royal Oak Schools, we have taken significant steps to achieve equity, inclusion and diversity in our buildings over the past four years with input from parents, students, community members and other stakeholders — and our work is far from done,” said VanHaitsma, ROS board secretary. “This task force provides a unique opportunity to learn new strategies from other Oakland County school leaders that will help our continued efforts to create an environment that promotes equity and fairness in our schools.”

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