

Discrimination report coming

The report, along with plans for an educational summit, will be on the table at the Greece school board's Dec. 13 meeting.

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After nearly three months of rumor and waiting, residents will have to wait a little longer to learn if five discrimination complaints against the Greece Central School District are legitimate.

The board-appointed study of the complaints will be discussed in executive session during the school board meeting Dec. 13, Board of Education president Ken Walsh said.

"I do not expect any action on that evening as the BOE will need time to see all of the information prior to taking any action," Walsh said.

The report, which was expected by Dec. 1, was delayed because of "a few key interviews that need to be scheduled and completed," Walsh said. He said he does not know who the key interviews are with.

Once completed, the study, led by retired Brockport schools administrator Alan Barry, will be turned over to the law firm of Harter, Secrest & Emery. The firm will offer the board guidance as to how to proceed.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has ruled in favor of five individuals who claimed they were discriminated against on the basis of age and/or disability.

Superintendent Meg Keller-Cogan, along with Brian Ladewig, executive director of human resources and staff relations, and Kathleen Pagano-Fuller, assistant superintendent of elementary schools, were put on paid leave in September and will remain off the job until the investigation's completion. Josephine Kehoe, retired superintendent of East Irondequoit schools, has led Greece Central since October.

One of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rulings, dated Sept. 14 and relating to one teacher's case, says that evidence indicates the district had discriminated against the teacher, first

Educational summit

The school board is planning an educational submit for early next year and will discuss its structure at its Dec. 13 meeting.

To learn more on the summit, visit www.greece.k12.ny.us.

because of her age, and later because she took a medical leave. The ruling directs the district to "alleviate the alleged unlawful practices through informal methods of conciliation."

Some have questioned why the school board didn't try mediation right away. The board chose to gather more information - a step that has taken longer than has said.

Also at the meeting, Walsh said the board plans to discuss the upcoming educational summit. Questions on its structure, crafted by the board's; Governance Committee, have been sent to board members. The summit, slated for the beginning of the year, will discuss the educational audit released in October.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, director of the Leadership for Learning Alliance, and William Dadey, former superintendent of Gates Chili schools, studied the district for months, talking to parents, school board members, staff and students.

The district has "overwhelming negative perceptions," both within and outside its walls that hide its successes, she found. Fitzpatrick suggested a summit in her recommendations.

Among the particulars up for decision are when the summit should be held, for how long, the number of participants and how they will be chosen.



KELLER-COGAN

