

Equity and Diversity Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

3:45 pm at Town Hall- Room 400

Agenda Topics	Discussion	Action
Welcome	Introductions -EDC Core Membership and guests	
'Identity Awareness' Exercise	Tabled until May Core Group Meeting to afford sufficient time for subcommittee reports	
Announcements and Shares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roszena gave a demonstration of the EDC Google Team Drive under development. Contents: Meeting agendas, minutes, subcommittee folders, resources. EDC info-trifold, membership • There was discussion regarding district-wide sharing and providing access to non-WHPS users. In the interim, EDC core membership will have Team Drive access. • Next Cultural Competence CSI has been rescheduled for 4/19 • Michelle LaCroix has been hired as Grant Coordinator for the Inspiring Equity Grant Project: <i>We All Have a Story to Tell</i> 	
Subcommittee Reports	<p>LGBTQ Advisory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on the study of Gender Neutral Bathroom Accessibility. Report findings, recommendations and suggested timeline were guided by state guidelines and protective laws; district vision, core values, goals and policies for inclusion; research on effects on students; data gathered from all 16 schools; reports from school RNs • Bonnie Arcari shared and suggested an audio on <i>Beyond Bathrooms: The Battle Over Transgender Rights</i> which can be accessed via http://the1a.org/shows/2017-02-27/beyond-bathrooms-the-battle-over-transgender-rights • The committee shared a PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Council presentation on Mon. April 17 at 7pm in Room 400. EDC members gave feedback and made suggestions. <p>Ethnic Affairs Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on WHPS/WHEA Staff Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goal of building capacity, opportunities, and support in creating and facilitating events or socials that promote and celebrate the diversity of our educational community. -The committee has already organized two social events and a workshop on unconscious bias. A full report can be accessed via: Ethnic Affairs Committee Report • Reported on the Future Educators of Diversity program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goals, history, direction and actions of the program in alignment with specific district goals and Board policies: <i>encourages, provides training, mentorship, and support for high school students of color to enroll in a CT teacher preparation program. This program enables WHEA teachers, administrators, and university partners to collaborate on an extended basis with these potential minority educators.</i> A full report can be accessed via: Ethnic Affairs Committee Report 	Recommendations will be shared and further discussed with Leadership groups

	<p>Student Achievement & Educator Capacity-Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on the committee’s purpose: <i>Examine policies and practice to see where we can improve; Capitalize on what we are doing great; Use policies and Cultural Competency framework to ground and guide us.</i> • The committee identified specific Board policies relevant to equity and cultural competence and highlighted positives and potential barriers within each policy. • Reported on Collaborative Inquiry Team work and the development of a compendium of resources in progress for teachers to access relevant to cultural competence. • Subcommittee report can be accessed via: Student Achievement Educator Capacity Building Report <p>Open Choice and Parent Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on the intersection of the two subcommittees. • Committee work to define ‘Family Engagement’ based on research and state guidance which can be applied to WHPS policies and practices led by Amy Yarbrough, Open Choice Family Engagement Consultant for WHPS. • Discussion regarding a spring convening to begin a planning process for a fall families program and action steps to welcome and engage parents in our schools. • Follow up discussion regarding Open Choice School and Town Resource Guide. Subcommittee and Open Choice Book Club members suggested that the school-based part of the resource guide to be reflective of individual schools and the character of each building; town-wide part of the resource guide can be uniform. • The Open Choice Book Clubs are working CREC facilitators to coordinate efforts to implement book clubs’ plan for engaging parents, through the lens of equity. • Dave Barrieau has been the district coordinator for the Open Choice Book Clubs. The group has started collecting info and samples of school-to-family outreach strategies in use by schools. • Subcommittee report on Family Engagement can be accessed via: Open Choice and Family Engagement Committee Report 	
<p>Adjorn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LGBTQ Presentation to the Parent Teacher Council (PTC)-Mon. April 17 at 7pm, Town Hall, Room 400 ○ EDC Subcommittees- Tue. April 25 at 3:45 pm in Town Hall in assigned rooms. <p>For more information or to get involved on the EDC, contact Roszena Haskins, Director of Diversity Advancement for information: 50 South Main Street, Rm 419 phone: 860-561-6900 roszena_haskins@whps.org</p> <p>Join Equity and Diversity in Action Google Community https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/118256162483383215961</p>	