

Equity and Diversity Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

3:45 pm at Town Hall- Room 400

Agenda Topics	Discussion	Action
Welcome	Introductions -EDC Core Membership and guests	
Shares Past and Upcoming Events	<p>-MLK Evening of Storytelling and Conversation in partnership with Solomon Schechter and Speak Up was well-attended. Good resource & template for subsequent story-telling events around the themes of diversity, inclusion, acceptance, etc.</p> <p>-Follow-up on Graustein Grant project <i>We All Have a Story to Tell: A Dialogue</i> Team meeting is scheduled for Thr. 1/26 @ 4pm with community partners and WHPS educators from across the district.</p> <p>-Several Open Choice Book Club members will attend a CREC Feb. professional learning session on “telling stories” to engage with families and communities.</p> <p>-12/21 Cultural Competence CSI feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hall HS students led workshops in collaboration with outside community partners on diversity topics such as : LGBTQ, Muslim experience, minority experience, ESOL, etc in which teachers were able to choose two workshops to attend. ● The 3 middle schools collaborated and offered 9 workshops on diversity topics from which teachers could choose. ● Teacher feedback: liked having choice, hearing student voices, and want more opportunities to dialogue with colleagues. <p>-COIA 5th graders visited United Nations and produced a video as part of a cross-age connections experience with Conard HS students.</p> <p>-Melissa Zych will share her doctoral research relevant to the implementation of the IB program with connections to her interest in developing a culturally competent mindset among our teaching staff (5:30 on 1/24-TONIGHT- at COIA).</p>	
Subcommittee Reports	<p>LGBTQ Advisory - Have been reviewing and discussing the Grade 5 Puberty Curriculum and ideas for communication with parents. Next steps: to create another training for teachers and staff. The group seeks to gain input from the entire staff. The group will also begin working on a spring presentation for the Parent Teacher Council.</p> <p>- Roszena and Paul Vicinus led a discussion on the topic of “all gender bathrooms” raised at the high school level and brought to the EDC. Research on this topic has been underway since at least Spring 2016. The LGBTQ Advisory will further discuss and process to determine if additional research and action are needed. The LGBTQ Advisory will report back to the EDC. If recommendations are made or supports are needed, the group will inform the EDC.</p> <p>Ethnic Affairs- Jamahl attended and presented information on the status of the Future Educators of Diversity program. Conard HS participants are engaged in a 5 part series on what it means to be a teacher. During the spring, students will make classroom visits and view videos of instruction. The group seeks the support of the EDC to build a support squad for these aspiring teachers. As part of a newly established partnership with the WHPS grow your own efforts, Enrollment Services Coordinator, Elijah Oliver of Manchester Community College will speak with Future Educator student participants in January.</p> <p>Student Achievement & Educator Capacity-Building-Discussed looking at</p>	<p>Roszena to confirm with PTC President Steve Dean a April or May presentation date.</p>

Commented [1]: Roszena to confirm with Steve Dean a April or May presentation date.
 +roszena_haskins@whps.org
 Assigned to Roszena Haskins

	<p>policies that promote student achievement. A few subcommittee members have been facilitating a CIT currently engaged in building a district clearinghouse of current articles, literatures, studies and reports related to building cultural competence. Schoology is one platform currently being developed as a vehicle for warehousing and sharing resources.</p> <p>Open Choice - The Open Choice Book Clubs are working facilitators from CREC will work with the facilitator to build capacity to lead the coordination of the implementation of the book clubs' plan for engaging parents, through the lens of equity. The elementary level book club examined school and district demographic data. Dave Barrieau developed a short Family Outreach Priorities survey to guide the groups' direction. The group has started collecting info and samples of school-to-family outreach strategies in use by schools. Amy Yarbrough reported that the group is currently working on a common definition of 'Parent Engagement'.</p> <p>Parent Engagement-Wolcott has planned a second school event at Hillcrest Avenue Neighborhood Center (HANOC). An evening of food and conversation is scheduled for Thr. 2/2 5:45 - 7:15. Will offer opportunity for parents and Wolcott staff to spend time together, share ideas and engage in discussion. The evening will offer free childcare and translators as needed.</p>	
<p>Review potential WHPS Policies for future study</p>	<p>Roszena reviewed the EDC purpose and priorities: <i>To support and sustain a diverse educational community that is inclusive and equitable by examining, developing, and improving systemic practices, programs, and policies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase diversity in WHPS certified staff •Increase educator capacity for cultural proficiency in all areas of teaching and learning •Increase student access and opportunities for engagement, leadership and achievement •Enhance the Open Choice experience for all •Engage families in the work of the EDC <p>-Roszena distributed a set of Board Policies most relevant to issues raised around equity, diversity, access and opportunities. Subcommittees will receive further guidance on selecting a policy most applicable to their goals and intended outcomes as a framework for driving their work.</p> <p>-Roszena also distributed the Six Thinking Hats handout and will further examine with the EDC and subcommittees how it can be used as a tool for considering recommendations for systemic change.</p>	
<p>Adjorn</p>	<p>Next EDC Meeting: Tues. 2/28/17 @ 3:45 pm. Subcommittees will meet in assigned Town Hall Rooms. All are welcomed to attend EDC meetings and participate on a subcommittee.</p> <p>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>Equity and Diversity in Action Google Community https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/118256162483383215961</p>	