



MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Diversity Committee
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present: Ron Drzewicki, Rick Brooks, Mike Prelesnik, Angie Vandecar, Dr. Karlin Tichenor, Liz Evans, Janet Alleman, Ted Berryhill, Erinna Toodzio, AmySue Hopkins, Mary Hilker, Lynn Goedert, Kimberly Clark, Laura Lange, Annika Maschke, Rachel Foster, Summer Issawi Courtney Vincent

Not available: Lance Delbridge, Abby Strachan. Kim Dickinson, Kathy Hicks, Mark Sundermann, Marlon Brown, Christopher Mumby, Alexander Charlot, Anne Gill, Desiree Waters, Jennifer Schlosser

Minutes

Angie thanked the committee members for attending.

Public Comment

No public comment

MEMSPA Conference, Dr. Adolph Brown

<https://www.docspeaks.com/>
<https://www.docspeaks.com/education>

Angie reported on the keynote speaker Dr. Adolph Brown. All four elementary principal's participated in this virtual presentation. Dr. Brown's work is riveting. His presentation used the analogy of a backpack. The backpack represents those differences we carry around that the world sees. Inside the big backpack is another smaller backpack that holds those aspects that cannot be seen. Afterward, the elementary principals discussed the need to be aware of what we don't see that is hidden in the small backpack.

Dr. Karlin J. Tichenor - Focus Group Update

Dr. Tichenor shared that 11 focus group meetings were held with district stakeholders with the goal of identifying a focus for diversity work and drive the District's strategic plan. The next step is to identify community and student groups to participate in the discussion. Professional development is planned for Friday, February 26, 2021. PD topics will include: DEI for leaders and educators and decolonizing curriculum. The purpose is to develop a recorded series for future dialog and onboarding staff.

CADL Program

[Virtual author visit/assembly - H.E.A.T.](#)

Mike shared that a live YouTube assembly is planned on Thursday, March 4th around 2:30-3:00. Various authors will speak. Local writer, Sara Arthur has partnered with CADL, featuring authors of color, with a recommendation for a school wide read with

a booklist and lessons. Participation can take place in classrooms, during library time, or as families. The event is free to the public. Kwame Alexander is featured. CADL is looking for donations to support the program.

Communication Plans

Ron shared that Karlin is helping to develop a topic for this week's Bulldog Bites. Karlin reported that the progress for student DEI writing is nearing completion.

Ron shared that more conversations focused on diversity are happening in the district. Development for February PD is exciting. He wished the group a safe and happy holiday season.

Next Steps

Future meeting dates

- Wednesday, January 13th at 5:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 10th at 5:30 PM
- Wednesday, March 10th at 5:30 PM

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.