



MASON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Diversity Committee
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Present: Rick Brooks, Mike Prelesnik, Angie Vandecar, Dr. Karlin Tichenor, Matt Stuard, Melissa Netzel, Molly Williams, Janet Alleman, Ted Berryhill, , AmySue Hopkins, Mary Hilker, Laura Lange, Abby Strachan, Kimberly Clark, Rachel Foster, Summer Issawi, Jennifer Schlosser, Ron Drzewicki, Liz Evans, Lynn Goedert, Jen Sauser, Courtney Vincent

Not available: Marlon Brown, Lance Delbridge, Erinna Toodzio, Desiree Waters, Anne Gill, Alexander Charlot

Michael Prelesnik opened the meeting at 5:34 p.m. and welcomed the committee members and members of the public.

Minutes

Public Comment

The committee received public comment from Katelyne Thomas and Lexie Caldwell

Professional Learning

Molly Williams introduced Travis Neller of Eaton RESA, who spoke on behalf of Youth Speak. He shared the importance of student voice and its link to academic success. The Youth Speak goal is to have students from all area schools participate. The program is open to students in 7th through 12th grade.

Reports/Discussion

Consultant

Dr. Tichenor shared an overview of the consulting process infographic. The committee discussed the DEI Implementation Plan and how it relates to student instruction and collaboration with parents. Dr. Tichenor addressed the summer plan timeline for subcommittee work.

Diversity Subcommittees

Community Tool Kit – Angie reported for Ted. He has a plan for summer work for the subcommittee.

District Procedures – Lynn Goedert shared the possible work to communicate with the community and answer questions.

Special Reports

Melissa Netzel reported on the morning's DEI talk on shaming. There is steady participation. Last week's discussion was facilitated by building principals.

Mary Hilker reported on the book study. She shared the importance of revisiting the topics next fall. The book selection was a good choice. Mr. Drzewicki shared the book was all about good teaching. He thanked all participants. Dr. Tichenor shared the second group will wrap up later this evening and Mr. Berryhill and Mr. Kueffner will guide the middle school staff through the book study in the fall.

Old Business

Angie Vandecar reported on the progress of the membership subcommittee on criteria, application, and selection process of members. She reviewed the discussion related to the committee's representatives, roles and responsibilities of the Diversity Committee. She presented the timeline for applications and the updated application form. The committee approved the work of membership process. The subcommittee will meet one more time before moving forward with communication.

New Business

Dr. Tichenor presented a proposed set of committee goals. The committee discussed the proposed goals and how goals can be actionable by all staff. Ron Drzewicki shared the compensation plan for staff stipends for chairpersons and subcommittee work. Jen Sauser recommended reaching out to current Diversity Committee members for confirmation to continue the work for the 2021-22 school year. The subcommittee form will be updated and pushed back out to the group.

Introduction of Other Matters by the Committee

Jen Schlosser inquired about the May 25 Visibility Day and wearing of the HEAT taskforce t-shirt. She shared her concerns related to students. Ron Drzewicki reported the initiative started in Holt and was not discussed in Mason schools. The District is not taking a position in support or opposition to the event. The committee discussed possible conversations with students prior to May 25th. Dr. Tichenor shared the importance of genuine support as opposed to disingenuous activities.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Mike thanked the members of the committee for their work.

Next Steps

Summer subcommittee work