

## Takeaways

Jamie Asaka: Hi everyone, I'm Jamie and I'm here with my colleagues Felicia, Reem, and Bernie, and we're here to share our takeaways from what we've read, what we've heard, and what we've witnessed. I'll start by saying one of the big takeaways for me was reading how important it has been for alumni to feel like they're connected with students, particularly our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous alumni, and their ability to connect with our current students, and for our students to connect with them to grow relationships and get mentoring, and to hear how it was for them when they were at school, and also to share how it is for them now.

Felicia Wilks: One of the things that I heard that we will be working on is including a greater balance in our curriculum when it comes to stories of Black excellence. We have not done as good a job as we could have in ensuring that stories of oppression and struggle are balanced in our curriculum with stories of Black success in philosophy, politics, the arts, in every area of life, in both the United States and abroad. African American culture and history are rich, beautiful, and powerful, and integral parts of American history. Our goal is ensure that Black and African American students see themselves accurately and fully represented in our curriculum. We also know that including the reality of oppression, both historic and current, as well as the reality of Black excellence are what is required to provide all of our students a complete and accurate education.

Reem Abu Rahmeh: One of the most recurring takeaways for me has been the persistence of microaggressions in the life of our community members here at Lakeside, and the understanding and knowledge that our community members are having to deal with these microaggressions without being able to report it or have somebody else stand up for them or interfere on their behalf on these issues. So this is one of the things that we'll be working on.

Bernie Noe: One of the really important points that we heard from our students this summer — our African American students — is that they need to see more adults in this community that they can relate to on a personal level. We are a very diverse school in terms of our student body, but we are not nearly diverse enough in terms of the adult community. All of us need mentors in life, and we're very fortunate when we have them, and we want those mentors to be available for our students so we will put our energy into creating more diverse faculty for the student body. And I want to thank all of the adults and students this summer who spent a lot of time with us telling us about their experience at the school and helping us be better educators and be a better school for everyone. Thank you.