

**LNSU/LN MUUSD SOCIAL/RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021**  
**REMOTE PARTICIPATION USING GOOGLE MEET**

Meeting began at 5:30 pm

Attending: Mark Nielsen, Jan Sanders, Jeff Hunsberger, Bobby Moulton, Denise Webster

Denise Webster volunteered as Chair

No one volunteered or was appointed as Minute-taker

Committee Responsibilities were discussed. They included:

Work on making all students, including BIPOC, feel welcomed and safe in Lamoille schools

Raise school and community awareness of racial justice and racial equity

Work on student mental health

Work on staff mental health

Continue anti-poverty work

Mark Nielsen stated he had been approached about a racial awareness class to be held at the high school. He has been told that there are other schools already doing this. He will reach out to those schools to find out about those classes, possibly we can use one of those already established.

Also, should we invite the social/racial justice leaders from the high school to join this committee? Jan also suggested we invite students from social justice group to join, other suggestion was from student leadership. Mark suggested we invite Galen Reese to join the committee.

There was discussion re: the "Courageous conversations supporting statement (Draft)" sent to Cat Gallagher by Eric Hutchins. Denise suggested striking the rest of the statement after "authentically", not only because it feels very negative, but because it implies permission for teachers to use whatever language they want without repercussions. Mark stated that Cat stated this is covered in the teachers' contracts. Jeff felt that the tone of the entire statement seems "off," and would like to see different language that is more positive. He also questioned what the administrative opinion is of the statement, and whether this represents the majority of teachers, would like feedback from teachers involved, but supports whatever Cat feels about it since she is the one who will have to deal with repercussions. A suggestion was made to invite Eric Hutchins to speak at the next meeting to answer these questions, as well as why he/they feel this statement is necessary. Jeff also stated that he doesn't feel this should be coming from a place of white privilege. Suggestion made to run by Miles Smith to give us his opinion, and possibly come up with language that will also reflect the BIPOC viewpoint.

Denise will discuss these questions with Cat, as well as possibly forwarding letter to Miles Smith and ask for his feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

*Minutes submitted by Denise Webster*