

October 23, 2019: Strengthening the Bonds Evening Event

October 30, 2019: Region 15's Global Citizenship Committee Meeting

Group 1 Special Education (Inclusiveness):

Programs and Initiatives

- Collaborative Learning Program
- Unified Sports
- Social Workers (inclusive for all students)
- Pre-School Program (integrated)
- Scouting
- Parent Advisory Group
- Fire Station Juniors Group
- S.M.A.R.T.
- Book Bowl
- Community Fundraisers
- Special Olympics

Building Bridges (empathy)

- Public Understanding: building empathy
- Erasing stigmas and misconceptions
- Inclusion creating global understanding
- Personalizing through building relationships
- Finding similarities through understanding differences
- Inclusion celebrating each child's uniqueness
- Increases social awareness

Resources

- Build a "resource" page on district website listing agencies and services in the community.
- Enlist community services and religious community
- Using library as a point of collaboration
- Service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, etc.)
- United Way
- SPED Conn.

Action Steps

- **Capstone project focusing on inclusion – Middle**
- Building peer groups in each school to foster mentoring across grade levels
- Developing community programs focusing on inclusion
- **"Resource" page in conjunction with community organizations**
- **Connecting parent group and creating social media presence**
- Creating service clubs
- Point person for grants, etc.
- Staff training on inclusive practice
- **Inviting community in at all levels**
- **SEPTA**
- **Long Meadow Leaders**

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Group 2 Racial Awareness:

- Goal: Begin engaging the community in conversations about race. The first step to awareness is being able to talk about race in general.
- International Day Events
 - During the school day with students
 - An extension* in the evening with parents and community members
 - Event Resources – Connecticut Community Foundation
 - Food trucks – follow up by Paul Jones,
 - Restaurants
 - Planning Committee – include email recipients + others
 - Music?
 - Speakers?
 - Superintendent of Schools – Watertown
 - Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. – President of Naugatuck Community Valley College
<https://www.nv.edu/about-nvcc/nvcc-going-strong/presidents-message>
- * Evening event held at Pomperaug High School
- Next steps
 - Designate roles/ planning committee
 - Schedule initial planning committee meetings

Town government can take ownership of providing training for staff in town offices – these folks impact the whole community and can model what we expect from our citizens. Invite leaders of other community organizations to join them.

Develop platforms and ways for students to connect about their shared experiences regarding racial bias and discrimination.

Community speakers/continue ADL in schools.

Training for PTO/PTO advisory getting more parents/guardians involved.

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Group 3 Recognizing Microaggressions and The Message They Send:

1. How can this activity be shared with others?
 - Through curriculum (from an early age), Presentations to Rotary Clubs, Girl/Boy Scouts, PTO, Professional Development, Senior Centers, churches, synagogues, Park and Rec, sports teams.

2. Who are the "others" that you can share this with?
 - Must get to all age levels. This is a multi-generational issue. See answer for number 1.

3. What support do you need in order to have a discussion and help others reflect?
 - Support needs to come from all aspects of the community... schools are just the beginning. We have to figure out a way to get to reach "the masses".

Have students create a short video defining it and offering examples. Post on school web page and ask local community organizations to post on theirs as well.

Training at high school and middle schools with students and staff.

Training of parents/guardians through PTO advisory.

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Group 4 Music/Art:

Outreach to Senior Centers

- Is there an arts community in Southbury/Middlebury? If not, can we start one?

Fine Arts Festival?

- Brochure (parents can put add in, use money to help pay for another diversity event).

Work through Tri-M (monthly? Holidays? Spring?)

- How does Region 15 better promote this?

Put events on the Patch and town halls (use Room 205 in Southbury Town Hall).

Community band and chorus

- Region 15, Heritage Villagers and Seniors
- Parks and Recreation
- Need: senior centers, develop flyers, conductor?, music, location, when?
- Michelle to talk to Parks and Recreation and Community Liaison
- Jeromy, etc. to visit senior center and to find a teacher

Movie theatre space?

Update Nov 19, 2019: The first meeting to form a Community Chorus Group was on November 18th. The committee is planning the first concert for next year, tentatively for March 28, 2020. The committee consists of community members, Southbury Parks and Recreation along with some Region 15 staff members.

Community improv classes/groups

Offer students Tri-M points for participating.

Offer free music/drama lessons for certain more 'inclusive' types of productions put on by students through community organizations (get funding to support paying for this).

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Group 5 Mental Health:

- Create a resource flyer to be posted in school common areas, community restrooms and restaurants
- Incorporate AP students in the design and rollout
- Destigmatize mental health – parent workshops, advisory
- S.M.A.R.T airs ad at movie theatre – “did you know” video
- Post to local website

Support for mental health professionals in the community also see issues of race/bullying arise in the kids/adults they work with.

Support for educational professionals (reducing stress and anxiety for educators).

SEL/RULER consistency (m.s.)

Action Plan

Educating staff (T1-strategies, T2-supports) at how to support and understand mental health diagnosis.

Mental Health Awareness Days (suicide prevention, domestic violence awareness, etc.).

Sufficient training/not one and done.

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Group 6 Dinner for 8:

Types:

- Progressive dinner (at a home, rotate app/dinner/dessert)
- Informal dinner (restaurant, soup night)
 - New Morning/Restaurants (better for food allergy)
 - Wyndham/Heritage hotels
 - Pies/Pints
 - Soup-er bowl pot luck
 - Dates: 2-3rd week of March
- Grow into progressive dinner
- Structured groups
 - Affinity groups
 - Google forms/Sign Up Genius – sent by facilitators
 - Color-coded name tags based on gluten free (arranged table dynamic)
- Affinity groups ideas (one or more ID'd)
 - Clergy
 - Government
 - District staff
 - Person of color
 - Ethnic minority
 - Parent
 - Senior
 - Business owner
 - Sexual/gender identity
 - Student
 - Other: _____

Should be both students and adults at each dinner.

First Selectman starts the first dinner?

First 8 to respond to meet – who pays?

Then form there, each 8 have their own dinners?

“The Table” (central location) – community open invitation?

Food Trucks:

with foods from different cultures at PHS