

# MINUTES

Social and Racial Justice Committee Meeting

December 13, 2021 5:00 PM

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## In Attendance

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Jennifer Hulse, Denise Webster, Jan Epstein, Bethann Pirie, Betzi Goodman, Jan Sander, Jeff Hunsberger and Maria Davies

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## Open forum

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Death of Lisa Kelly will have a ripple effect on our youth as many families worked with her. We need to remember her and her contributions. She was effective in her role at DCF and her work was so critical. We are seeing some impacted families. Vigil is tomorrow, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the gazebo across from Pizza on Main in Morrisville.

Agreed to add the word disability for our goals. It now reads:

VISION

That the safety, dignity, humanity and lived experiences of every student and family are honored, protected, and celebrated equitable regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sexual identification, disability, socio-economic status, or any other aspect of identity.

After Special School Board meeting, Denise questioned whether this committee should look at policy, especially the communication with parents. Policy is a model policy for HHB. Procedurally is all laid out for us in the VISBIT website. Procedures are in place but better communication is one of greatest needs at this time. We need to make sure we communicate with parents. Did the staff follow procedures, yes procedures were followed.

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## Maria's Updates

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- Maria hosted a training with Clarina Howard Nichols Center for LUHS around healthy relationships.
- Maria worked with the LNSU School Board Social Racial Justice Committee to adopt a Vision and identify three School Board Goals for this school year. Read the complete statement [here](#).
- Maria is working with the H.S. to discuss Racial Harm with the entire H.S. Student Body and why it is important for them to understand why this matters.
- Maria is working with the High School to form a Racial Equity Cohort so we can address racial harm as harm is occurring. The individuals in this cohort may also be part of the DEI Leadership Team that the School Board has approved to form.
- Maria is working on the launching of a DEI site that would live in the LNSU website which will include information on webinars, tools, and articles on how to address harm and have difficult conversations with others around harm when harm is caused.
- Maria and Mark continue to meet weekly to discuss RP and DEI implementation, and check in with Ashley (MTSS) on a regular basis. We have also been working with individual schools to meet their RP and DEI implementation and training needs.

Below are a few things coming up in the next month:

- Maria is working with the Middle School on a Youth Social Justice Committee to improve school climate/culture adopting the 100% respect campaign. LRC will be on hand to help in facilitation and coordination if needed.
- Maria will continue her work with LUHS/LUMS/GMTCC on repairing racial harm. A presentation on Racial Harm will be provided to the entire H.S. Student body via google meet on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 1:00 to 1:20.
- Maria is connecting with Up for Learning to Create a Youth-Adult Partnership Team (YPAR) that will work with the DEI Leadership Team on understanding the importance of DEI and the impact on schools and school culture/climate and learning.
- Maria to start an elementary school mentoring program for our ELL students. I want to pilot the program with Hyde Park at this time.
- Maria is working with Jen, Wendy and Ashley on assisting ELL families with translations. This will include report cards, 504, IEP and special educational documentation as well as assessments and information related to the students' progress at school. Jen is researching translators.
- The Drum Daddies are coming to Lamoille High for a one day event and all schools are welcome to come on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at the High School Auditorium to play drums with the band. SPAC is sending me the musicians who are BIPOC.

*Drummers [Manas](#) Itene of [Michael Franti and Spearhead](#), [Of Good Nature](#)'s [David](#) Hamilton, and Grammy Award-winning [Arrested Development](#)'s [Speech](#) are traveling to Burlington to join in drumming 2022 in with good vibes, putting the unity in community.*

*If you want to schedule the Drum Daddies to appear at and offer your school or community center FREE hand-drumming good vibe gushin' percussion workshops, contact me by Dec 21 to make it happen! All that is necessary to make it happen is a gym or auditorium space and one hour. We will make the magic--infusing the children (and adults) with a message of hope and love through music.*

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Meeting Ended

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Meeting came to an end at 5:50.