

# MINUTES

Social and Racial Justice Committee Meeting

January 10, 2022 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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## Notes

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Drum Daddies canceled due to COVID and the new Omicron variant. Maria is looking for a new date with SPAC.

Matthew Golden from the 100 Respect Campaign will continue to work with MS kids on SRJ team.

Racial Harm Presentations were postponed due to the TicToc threat on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Maria has submitted the Up For Learning Partnership to the budget with Wendy Savery, waiting to hear back.

Discussions were started with HP Elementary for Racial Equity mentoring, but these will wait until after COVID subsides.

Maria is working with Denise Maurice at the Middle School level with two of their youth. One needs support with a BIPOC Counselor; Maria found three, only two were taking new clients. They are from out of State. Jeff Hunsberger stated that Natasha Chang is the coordinator for a state-wide list of BIPOC counselors.

Maris is also working with BIPOC youth at the Middle Level to gauge interest in a BIPOC Affinity Space at the H.S. Some BIPOC youth at the H.S. Level expressed an interest via their fabulous teachers of collaborating and getting to know other BIPOC youth in the rest of the District. Therefore, Maria reached out to LSUU and the people that run those groups. They are happy to connect their BIPOC youth with our youth. We would like to collaborate on a District-Wide BIPOC Affinity/Consortium. Maria due to speak to the group of five people online this Thursday at 1:00 PM to see how we can connect the youth.

Maria continues to meet with BIPOC groups at least weekly to determine their needs. She is collaborating with SPAC, The Current, and River Arts Center to connect our BIPOC youth with some mentors as well as classes they could take in the Performing Arts or arts in general. The Current is will to work with a student to teach arts. The Alchemist has offered to help pay for these classes.

Jen Hulse will take over the lead on finding ELL interpreters. Maria gave her the names she has found, and forwarded a letter from Commissioner French to all principals.

Jeff stated that Healthy Lamoille Valley was doing a presentation on talking to youths about racism, ? that Thursday.

Jeff asked what is happening with Restorative Practices. Bethann Pirie stated that staff are reading Joe Brumer's book and has ongoing work with the Restorative Center. Jan Epstein is working with teachers to help students deal with "tricky subjects."

Jeff asked how many actual counselors do we have on staff in the district? Bethann stated she is working on getting spaces available for individuals or small groups.

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Meeting Ended

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Meeting came to an end at 5:52 PM