

## **Social/Racial Justice Meeting Minutes** **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Attending: Denise Webster, Jeff Hunsberger, Sophie Hunsberger (student board representative), Erik Remmers, Betzi Goodman, Bethann Pirie, Jennifer Hulse, Jan Epstein, Maria Davies, Jan Sander (remotely)

Called to order: 5:35pm

Minutes of December 5, 2022 reviewed. BP asked that the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 2 wording be changed to "...high school students are starting to question things they may be doing that are causing harm." Approved with changes.

Maria's updates:

DEI Website is now public. Not everything is on yet, more to come. Letter regarding trauma being translated then will be added. We can see items in the background by typing "equity" in search bar

Arts Impact Grants- Final Report- Eden's After School Therapeutic Theatre Completed. Betzi said the after school program went well. Waterville Elementary School is interested in doing something similar if we can find funding. I will plan on that for Waterville but we are going to call it The Curious Place rather than Therapeutic.

DEIA Team- Team going to get communication this week about the new DEIA Leadership Team. Admin will also receive information on the stipends that will be covered by Title IV grant funding and what they should anticipate covering for their staff who participate out of their school budget. We are paying stipends at 29.55 hour. DEAI Leadership Team starts meetings on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Project Becoming for LUHS- Starts on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The project becoming curriculum uses yoga, creative writing, dance, meditation, capoeira and other expressive modalities; thus taking our participants on an invaluable journey into womanhood. We need programs like these to help empower and build community with our young women. The program will take up to 30 high school youth. We already have 12 interested. I shared a poster with the Social Racial Justice Committee about the program. A permission slip in English and Spanish has gone to Nichole Lefavre so she can provide it to her interested youth.

Community Mural for Johnson is in the process of being funded by many different funders. Private donors as well as the Vermont's Arts Council may fund the project. We are also hoping that Title IV grant funds will help with this project. Johnson will reach out to the community to start introducing the community mural and garnering interest in painting it as well as embracing the mural as a community-wide project. We hope that if we have sufficient funding this academic year we can also try and do a mural at Eden, if not we may leave for the next academic year.

Other updates and business:

JH questioned if the Restorative Pilot project "Reclaiming Futures" is still going (started with previous principal.) ER states he thinks it disappeared with COVID.

JH asked about the climate in the buildings. MD stated that staff seem to be coming to her more, and she also gets a lot of students (mostly BIPOC) re: issues with their counselors. BP stated that bathroom situations are getting better, students are required to have a bathroom pass, adults in the building are very active in patrolling. SH states it can be annoying, but she understands why. She observes that students take a pass and disappear for long periods of time. DW stated that at BEMS where she works in middle school they had to augment the passes with sign-in/sign-out sheets for this same problem.

ER - An Assets and Needs Assessment of community and culture was just completed at GMTCC. All of staff and most of students were interviewed. He will possibly have the data for us by the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15.