

Social & Racial Justice Committee, May 8, 2023

Attendants: Maria Davies, Betzi Goodman, Jan Sander, Denise Webster, Christy Liddy, Jeff Hunsberger, Jan Epstein, Bethann Pirie, Brian Duda, Eric Remmers

Webster called meeting to order at 5:04PM

Agenda - no additions or public comment; J. Hunsberger moved approve minutes; Liddy seconded; unanimous approval

Davies discussed But Why? Podcast, looking at it through an equitable lens, looking at the school community like a mushroom with a lot of unseen aspects all working together to obtain what is seen

There was a discussion around WWII curriculum in middle school; curriculum should include WWII; would be important as a preventative for before and after incidents. J. Hunsberger discussed having the opportunity for a week-long education, maybe partnering with Stowe Holocaust Memorial. Davies said people from VT Holocaust Memorial came and spoke about their family experiences. Miriam Rosenbloom from the Vermont Holocaust Memorial will be presented to LUHS 10 th graders on May 25th. Root causes of anti semitic attacks shared from South Park, which is making a comeback. Discussion around embedded curriculum in 7th/8th grade education for more robust education for next year.

Backpack give-away from National Life's Be Good, Do Good, partnership to collect more items to give away at least 200 backpacks. Staples also donated items and will also give away materials that are all crayola in August. Davies is already collecting names for backpacks. Teachers want to know earlier to pass out individually to students so that they can build rapport. Davies asked for board members to also participate.

Davies discussed reclaiming space after covid; having folks in the buildings and making a reclamation of community.

Goodman discussed welcoming folks back to Eden school and having end of year BBQ so folks can see the new annex.

Discussion around digital literacy - critical in vocabulary and curriculum; lack of understanding how digital footprint lasts potentially forever.

Davies discussed Common Sense Media- Professional Development - librarians use in Waterville and Eden; very user friendly for specific age groups, lesson plans. Pirie discussed already teaching some digital literacy and continuing to use restorative center-mapping out.

J. Hunsberger said police can make transparency around online episodes for students to understand digital tracing. Duda discussed an alcohol literacy course he took that said Big Alcohol is in all media; what message are messages from various ads trying to tell you subliminally? How do we implement these messages to students? How do we add to already busy teacher's schedules?

J. Hunsberger noted that social services and the restorative center need to connect to other organizations; maybe a social service summit like a health fair? In service day? The family center, Laraway - what initiatives are taking place? The fabric needs to be better woven together and working cohesively; less barriers to share scenarios and make referrals. Hunsberger also says there needs to be a place to come to the table and have interactive convos with the community where it can be fair and equitable. This requires coordination, but we can learn from each other and meet one another.

Climate Survey Presentation for Staff at LUHS June 5 th at their normal staff meeting.
DEIA Leadership Team meets on May 11 th setting out the Framework for PD.

We need more SAP (Substance Abuse Prevention). Classes or a person teaching this content. J. Hunsberger says product needs to equal talk; efficiency needs to be a goal for social work; advisory/steering committee create focus points.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM

Respectfully submitted by Christy Liddy