

## **Social & Racial Justice Committee, June 12, 2023**

Attendendants: Maria Davies, Betzi Goodman, Denise Webster, Jeff Hunsberger, Christy Liddy, Jan Sander, Bethann Pirie, Brian Duda

Webster called meeting to order at 5:07

Agenda - no additions or public comment; Hunsberger moved, Sander seconded; minutes unanimously accepted

Backpack Giveaway - School board members will give out the backpacks at Tuesday Night Live in Johnson; Greg Davis said he is sure he will get a date secured in the near future, sometime in August

- The Alchemist Foundation gave \$1500
- National Life Group - Davies would like to talk to them about teaming up to get donations

Vermont Holocaust Memorial - Miriam Rosebloom from the Vermont Holocaust Memorial was presented to LUHS 10th graders on May 25th; one staff member indicated after the meeting that some of the youth had no idea that the presenter was coming. Recommendations were made by the committee to read book selections and watch films about the Holocaust to get an idea of its enormity.

Leaf Project - students were given leaves, representing over 1 million children who passed in the Holocaust and were encouraged by their teachers to add a reflective note to the leaves and return them to Davies so she can pass them along to the Vermont Holocaust Memorial.

Climate Survey Presentation for LUHS Staff was on June 5 at their normal staff meeting and went really well. Staff asked questions and got into groups and talked about what an equitable school would look like; they liked the work that we have been doing and would like to participate in the new academic year with our planning.

DEIA Leadership Team met on June 1 for the last time for the academic year with presenter Percy Brown. They discussed the survey and what bubbled up from the last meeting where we narrowed down some focus areas we would like to start working on as a district.

- We decided it was important to have some staff/student and community focus groups and create one cohesive and comprehensive Code of Conduct Manual for the entire district. One that the community, youth and staff are able to provide feedback on and understand the setting out the definitions of HHB, T9, and a rubric for how we could address incidents via restorative conversations around corrective action or redirections of students with systems that are restorative, inclusive, trauma-informed and culturally responsive.
- We discussed how Administrators and district leaders will participate in continuous and ongoing training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in education and understanding

inequity and plan for continuous and ongoing learning for all staff in these areas. This work takes courageous leadership.

**Community Mural at Johnson Elementary School/Pointillism (SEL) workshops at Eden Central, Waterville Elementary, and Johnson Elementary**

Juniper Creative Arts have completed the mural at JES. The celebration for the mural was Friday, June 9th at the school's community BBQ. We had a slight hiccup but we overcame the criticism and finalized the work. Community paint day was a huge success.

Pointillism Workshops at Eden, Waterville, and Johnson were successful and some of the work was brilliant. Youth loved it and asked for more workshops. Planning on doing more in the new academic year.

Next mural will be slated for Eden Central.

Followup questions/discussions from last month's meeting:

Social Services Summit for primary youth service organizations helping youth (providing services to youth). This is in an effort to understand what initiatives are happening and what is being done to help pour youth through these tough times. We have a lot of needs; we have a lot of resources, but we all need to know what is out there and what is everyone doing so we are all able to help each other out and, in the process, help our youth.

We need more SAP (Substance Abuse Prevention). Classes or a person teaching this content. Where can we get funding for this?

Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM

Respectfully submitted by Christy Liddy