

MINUTES

Inclusivity Advisory Committee

May 26, 2021

3:30-5:00 P.M. via Zoom

45 minutes

Updates:

1. K-5 social studies curriculum update

Melanie Ward presented on the K-12 social studies curriculum work that has been happening throughout the district. Some of the highlights include the county-wide work with Monroe County school districts, facilitated by BOCES and CUES (Center for Urban Education Success). This project- The Race, Class and Inequities Project, is focus on creating inquiry-based units for students to use primary source documents to grapple with compelling questions centered around local history.

The ongoing work around culturally responsive teaching will continue with large curriculum writing teams that will unpack, deconstruct and reconstruct current units over time to ensure that they provide opportunities for students to learn about history from multiple perspectives (windows, mirrors, sliding doors) through the lenses of equity, inclusivity, social justice and civic-mindedness. The IAC was invited to view this work as it occurs this summer.

There was a discussion about the power of this work and how the district can share this with community.

2. Teacher Center Summer Catalog update

Julie Barker, Teacher Center Director, shared the listing of courses being offered this summer that will center around inclusivity. A few of these include "Creating a Safe Space where Hard Conversations are Expected, Valued, and Encouraged," "Cultural Competency (2 parts available)," "Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain," "LGBTQ Terminology (2 parts available)," "Cultural Humility," among others.

Julie also noted the collegial circles that are happening across the district. We also discussed that teachers will all receive a common training focused on equity before the start of the school year.

IAC members are invited to participate in Teacher Center Courses. Contact Julie Barker for information. More information about initiatives and the Teacher Center can be found at <https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/20189>

3. Committee survey

The committee members are asked to complete the PCSD committee survey. These results are looked at by DPT to give us areas for continued improvement and celebration.

4. Next year membership and meeting dates

Shana and Bill will work to share committee dates for next year. It is the end of the three-year term for most members. The district will share a process for bringing on new members in the Fall. Current members are encouraged to stay on the IAC through the first semester as we make the transition. If anyone is not interested in staying on, please let Shana know.

45 minutes

Suspension conversation continued

1. Summary of work to date
2. Recommendations

The group looked over the work that has been done to date and the current recommendations. These include:

**Focus less on the suspensions and more on building relationships with students and understanding cultural differences and needs*

Collaboration with Special Education department to address discrepancies for students with disabilities

Continued training for administrators and teachers around this data and alternative approaches/mindsets

Continued implicit bias and equity training for all staff

Connections with ongoing Code of Conduct work- the IAC supports a Code of Conduct that will include preventative, proactive approaches

The IAC recommends looking at best practices in other districts as well as in PCSD to make improvements in this area

5 minutes

Next meeting- Tasha Potter event- June 16th 6-8 PM

This event will take the place of our meeting. All IAC members are encouraged to attend. The link to register can be found at:

<https://www.pittsfordptsanet.net/>

(scroll to the bottom of the PTSA homepage to register)
