

MINUTES

Inclusivity Advisory Committee

April 21, 2021

6:00 P.M. via Zoom

10 minutes

Superintendent Pero visit

- The Superintendent thanked the committee for the continued work around inclusivity and particularly for the work related to recommendations for more equitable practices regarding access to honors classes and the disparity in suspensions and referrals.
- He shared the process that was followed regarding the 4th grade social studies worksheet that was discovered this week regarding slavery. He asked for feedback around the process followed and asked us to come together as a community to continue our focus on culturally responsive pedagogy.

60 minutes

Suspension information

- Shana Cutaia and Pat Brogan shared the process for suspensions in PCSD, including long-term and Superintendent's hearings. Some examples were shared of when suspension was used to provide time for restorative practices; examples were also shared of when alternatives to suspension were used. PCSD administrators provided their philosophy around these types of decisions, and the team effort that is involved to make the process one that is focused on learning and healing.
- The committee brainstormed ways to create more equity around behavioral concerns. The conversation focused on what happens before a behavior incident occurs. How do staff build relationships with students of differing cultures and backgrounds? How are administrators trained to recognize opportunities for alternatives to suspension? Can we share this data and provide an opportunity for conversations for building leaders?
- The Special Education Advisory Committee is also looking at this data relative to students with IEPs. The facilitators will work together to see if there are overlaps with action steps. This will be reported back at our next meeting.

20 minutes

Next steps

- The committee will need more time to solidify some initial recommendations regarding discrepancies in suspensions/referrals
- The Teacher Center was not able to present on upcoming courses, given our time constraints. They can report at our next meeting.