

Friday, December 17, 2021
African-American District Advisory Council Meeting
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Alysia Flamer, Chairperson
Niki Wikstrom, Vice-Chairperson
Lovette Panthier, Parliamentarian
Darius Wynn
Denise Goodin
Nikki Sunday
Chanise Spencer
Arisha Ali
Georgene Pantelas
Leena Barakat
Tania Maddox
Sonia Wilson- Administration
Lisa Miller- Administration
Kenny Loo, Administration

I. OPENING PROVISIONS

A. Meeting called to order 9:05am

Roll call was taken by Niki Wikstrom, acting as proxy for Elizabeth Allen.

B. Approval of Agenda

- 1.** Motion to amend the agenda and include an emergency election for secretary in item 4a.
 - a.** Motion made by Leena Barakat
 - b.** Motion seconded by Daruis Wynn

II. COMMENTS

- A. Public:** Trustee Bill Gorback thanked AADAC for what they are doing and wished the group happy holidays.
- B. AADAC Chair:** Honored to be the chair and expressed gratitude for the group. The hope is to create a space for black people to come together, and one where they learn the existing structure of the educational system and how to navigate it. The chair also

expressed a desire for black parents to be able to communicate their parenting realities to staff with openness.

Alysia Flamer (chair) also mentioned Westlake High School to pilot a tutoring program that will help link AADAC students together. Contact Alysia if any students are interested in working with her daughter to begin this program.

C. CVUSD Administration:

1. Sonia Wilson discussed 'Opt-In' letter to send out for AADAC-related information at individual school sites in order to open a line of communication with other parents/caregivers of students who identify as Black or African-American. Sonia Wilson also discussed the proposal for administrators and advisors of site BSUs to collaborate with one another to share practices, recruitment, activities, etcetera related to BSUs. Finally, Dr. Wilson summarized the procedure for reporting concerns for students at school sites in a chain of reporting as follows: teacher, site administration (principal), district administration. District admin. Includes Dr. Sellers (elementary), Dr. Wilson (middle school), and Mr. Mercer (high school). Sonia Wilson acknowledged the need for a more comprehensive future presentation on this topic.
2. Lisa Miller presented an overview of measures being taken to address the social-emotional needs of students. At CVUSD middle and high schools, there is the addition of wellness centers staffed by mental health professionals, and/or counselors. At the elementary schools, school counselors provide SEL direction and support.

CVUSD has also implemented a "Red Flag Warning" protocol, whereby internet searches that suggest self-harm, harm to others, pornography, etc. are flagged to district monitors Drs. Heather Chamberlin and Lisa Miller- including weekends and holidays. Monitors reach out to students and their families as a result.

3. Kenny Loo thanked member Denise Goodin for her representation of AADAC at DAC meetings. Mr. Loo also drew attention to the posters created by communication interns on how to report incidences of bullying and harassment. Alysia Flamer asked for clarification between the information on the posters, and the anonymous tip line. Mr. Loo clarified that the end result of all reports is funneled to the district reporting team. Mr. Loo also mentioned that the district is (since after Thanksgiving) working on an elementary-focused poster as well.

D. AADAC Members

1. Lovette Panthier and Denise Goodin provided an update on Los Cerritos Middle School's last BSU meeting where Mrs. Panthier presented a Kwanza-themed talk. The students also had treats and shared ice-breaker activities.

2. Nikki Sunday relayed an altercation that occurred at Redwood Middle School where her son was hit by another student. She explained that she went to the principal, and the two students met in mediation whereby the perpetrating student received an opportunity to apologize (and did apologize). Ms. Sunday questioned this outcome given her review of school policies regarding physical harm by students. She also questioned the consistency, or possible lack thereof, in punitive outcomes across racial demographics (i.e.: would a non-black student have received the same opportunity to make amends without suspension).
3. Niki Wikstrom relayed pertinent information from a meeting with Redwood principal Nicole Judd regarding the school's BSU status, and future plans for upcoming Black History Month- which includes possible lessons/presentations during advisory and/or distributed systematically to teachers throughout the week. They plan to meet again in January to follow-up.
4. Chanise Spencer clarified BSU information from Redwood that the last meeting had more (7) students. Two who identified as African American, and five identified as allies. The meeting was socialization-focused, however the faculty supervisor- Mr. Zasadil- was clear that more structure would come moving forward. Mrs. Spencer emphasized the necessity for continued increased recruitment efforts.

III. Reports

None

IV. Action Items

- A. An emergency election was held for the secretary position on the AADAC executive board. Nikki Sunday, who was on the initial slate agreed to run once again in this election. With seven 'yea' webinar votes, Nikki Sunday was elected as the AADAC secretary.

V. Information/Discussion Session

A. Core Literature Update

Dr. Sonia Wilson and Mr. Brian Mercer (Directors of middle schools and high schools, respectively) presented information regarding core literature and Ethnic Studies in CVUSD. The changes in the core literature curriculum serve to reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences in the district, and the world at large. Core literature are novels/literature selected that align with Common Core standards to serve the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening- articulated by grade level. The adoption process of core literature is outlined on the CVUSD website, and available for public viewing, following Board Policy 6161.1. Parents are able to opt-out of literature preferences in lieu of alternative assignments.

In the last two years, working closely with the Equity Task Force, five new secondary titles have been approved with African American authors and/or protagonists. Of those, two feature LGBTQ+ characters, as well as other persons of color. Implementation of an 'required-extended list' in addition to the existing 'required' list ensures that at least one (or more) diverse book will be used in each classroom.

1. Ethnic Studies Update

Following the adoption of California Assembly Bill 101, all high schools will be required to have students complete an Ethnic Studies course by 2029-2030. CVUSD is expediting this process with plans to offer a pilot course by fall 2022. The Ethnic Studies Working Group (ESWG) was created in August-September 2021 and began reviews of the California Department of Education, Oxnard USD, and Los Angeles City schools as frameworks for existing ethnic studies programs. In October of 2021 held stakeholder meetings with the Equity Taskforce and Secondary District Advisory Council. In the same month, follow-up meetings were taken with the ESWG for edits to the course of study. Parent preview night is anticipated for course of study and titles before the release of the pilot program in Fall 2022.

B. Reports and Subcommittee Information

AADAC chair expressed desire to form subcommittees of the council. This can involve people who do not have the availability to be on the committee, but who are interested in being a part of the AADAC community. Two proposed subcommittees were a Bylaws subcommittee, and a Community Outreach subcommittee. Members interested in the Bylaws subcommittee were Lovette Panthier, Denise Goodin, and Nikki Sunday. Members interested in the Community Outreach subcommittee were Lovette Panthier, Darius Wynn, and Nikki Sunday. Alysia Flamer also relayed that Shelly Castillo (not present) also expressed interest in community outreach.

C. Future Topics

Alysia Flamer offered members to consider becoming a *member-at-large* of the executive board.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.