

Friday, February 25, 2022

African American District Advisory Council Meeting

In Attendance:

Alysia Flamer:Chairperson

Niki Wikstrom: Vice-Chairperson

Lovette Panthier: Parliamentarian

Shelly Castillo: Member-at-large

Denise Goodin: Member-at-large

Elizabeth Allen: Member-at large

Chanise Spencer

Angel Refuerzo

Daruis Wynn

Shauna Robinson

Nikki Sunday

Arisha Ali

Georgine Pantelas

Kymm Thorton

Sonia Wilson-Administration

Lisa Miller- Administration

Kenny Loo- Administration

Ricardo Araiza- Administration

I. Opening Provisions

A. The meeting was called to order at 9:07

Roll call was taken by Shelly Castillo

B. The Chairperson, Alysia Flamer determined a quorum as 12 members were present.

C. The pledge was led by Alysia Flamer.

II. Comments

A. Public Comments

1. Shayla Hosley Smith

Ms. Smith's daughter is an 8th grader at Redwood Middle School. She has had negative interactions with the administration over the past 3 months. Prior to December, she had never been in trouble and there have been 7 incident reports filed. Several Caucasian students have used the N word in her daughter's presence and in text messages. Her daughter challenged the anti-Black racial slurs and was reprimanded for not going to the administration first.

Another Caucasian student grabbed, pushed and antagonized her daughter during class and her daughter approached the student during nutrition. Ms. Judd rushed over to intervene because she thought her daughter was going to attack the Caucasian student.

A group of students tried to get her daughter and another student to fight. Her daughter did not want to fight. Ms. Judd intervened and was later heard saying that she does not want her daughter at the school because she is always causing problems.

Her daughter has been kept in the office for 1-3 hours without parent notification and has missed class. Ms. Warner has requested to be notified should any incident occur during school hours and her request has not been honored.

Ms. Warner has met with Mr. Loo, the principal and vice principal of Redwood regarding the inequity in the accountability among students and Ms. Judd's responses. No policy or procedural changes have been made. District officials have admitted that diversity training is new to the staff and that they are not equipped to deal with racial attacks and trauma.

2. La Shaun Aaron (805 Resistance)

Ms. Aaron spoke of the invisibility of Black students except when it comes to punitive, over disciplinary actions. Administration and district officials take a long time to address the issues of Black students and parents but instead focus on Diversity Equity and Inclusion, not allowing Black parents and students to have a separate space when necessary. District officials were swift when addressing anti-Asian hate incidents.

B. Member Comments:

1. Denise Goodin

Ms. Goodin's daughter was recently racially assaulted and called the N -word at school. She was reprimanded for her reaction. She has been offered counseling. Students have not been held accountable for the anti-Black racial attacks. Students have denied using the N word and the counselors stated that it was an alleged incident.

2. Shelly Castillo

Anti-Black racial assaults are happening on different campuses in CVUSD which points to a systemic issue. Students who report are offered counseling and referred to the Student Study Team which constructs Black students and families as problematic instead of confronting anti-Black racism. Her daughter reported hearing an anti-Black racial slur in her classroom this year. An investigation was completed and the school claimed that the allegations could not be substantiated. She was referred to the Student Study Team and refused and questions if the student study teams, wellness centers and counselors are educated in racial trauma and education. Another student in the same class used an anti-Black racial slur and laughed along with other students. The parents reported this to the teacher and the teacher never responded to the parents.

3. Georgene Pantelas

Ms. Pantelas would like to know what schools are doing to respond to anti-Black racists incidents. She has reported them to the administration at Sycamore. Black people should have more of a voice and training should be done by Black professionals. The math and science teachers highlighted Black mathematicians and scientists. The science teacher sent a letter to all parents about an extra credit assignment for Black History Month.

4. Nikki Sundae

Other students are asking her sons about their race. Ms. Sundae believes that Black parents are fighting the district and finds it very disheartening. It is difficult for students to have pride in their Black culture in this type of environment.

5. Kim Thorton

Ms. Thorton's son has been racially harassed at school and nothing happened when it was reported. A child of a former district official racially harassed her son. Black families and students are forced into being sensitive

6. Shauna Robinson:

Believes that Black students are unprotected and the reports of anti-Black racial incidents need to be taken seriously. There is a lack of urgency when reporting anti-Black racial assaults.

7. Lovette Panthier:

Black students should be believed. Families are encouraged to report but are not believed when they do so. AADAC needs to know about the anti-Black racial incidents so they can support families and intervene if necessary. Cultural brokers can work with families to offer support and solutions.

8. Angel Refuerzo:

Ms. Refuerzo has reported anti-Black assaults and the same thing is still happening. She questions why we are encouraged to report all incidents. Lessons on Black History Month have been included this year at Century Academy. The Wellness Center is open 3 days a week. Several students come to the center.

III. District Reports

Sonia Wilson:

Reported meetings took place with district officials and school administrators to discuss the recruitment strategies and resources for the Black Student Unions.

UCLA Center X will train teachers on core literature. They will focus on identifying diverse texts and teaching strategies.

Ricardo Araiza

Appreciates hearing what the group shared.

Lisa Miller:

Acknowledged the group for their collective voices and has been influenced by them. She recognizes the setbacks and missteps and expressed her appreciation.

Kenny Loo

Thanked the group for sharing. He would like to work with the principals in the district. Council members should take part in the school planning process. There is a commitment to look at the data of African American students in the future.

Darius Wynn:

Would like to know how the data will be used.