

BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Barrington Middle School
Professional Development Room
261 Middle Highway
Barrington, RI

Diversity Equity and Inclusivity
Committee Minutes of February 4, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Diversity Equity and Inclusivity Norms

Attendees: Gina Bae, Erika Severson, Diana Siliezar-Shields, Katie Spencer, Venus Tian, Doug Lane, Kelly Kaon, Victoria Criado, Arian Mohammedi (guest)

Introductions

A. Old Business

1. Minutes from November meeting
 - Katie moved and Stacy S-B seconded to table the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

B. New Business

1. Working Group Updates - Policy Review, Communication Plan, and Recruiting Educators of Color.

Working group reports:

- *Policy review.*
 - The working group has been given all the policies to review. If we have feedback, provide it tonight or provide it by next week.
 - --Policies: suspension, substance abuse, code of conduct & discipline, student behavior.
 - --We will put the policies under review into the DEI folder for review.
- *Communication* group has not met. Erika will reach out to members to meet.
- *Recruiting educators of color.* Met last week, to brainstorm thoughts/barriers. (Reputation, travel, housing.) Discussion of whether the focus is too narrow. Some districts (Newton, Brookline) allow teachers to register their kids in-district--is this something Barrington can do as a recruitment strategy?

- Gina reported on a commissioner’s session on Educators of Color (under umbrella of recruiting/retaining). Still operates as a “safe space” for educators to gather and discuss issues. They’re gathering data on best practices, harm incidents.
2. Discussion of Mid-Year Report to School Committee
 - School committee liaisons to advisory committees will give mid-year report at SC on Thursday.
 - HS DEI group will present on social studies curriculum.
 3. Discussion of Future Agenda Items
 - Future agenda items: Discuss HS diversity initiatives. Could that group attend? Culturally relevant curriculum efforts. (May be pushed down to MS)
 - Ariana spoke about the XQ grant initiatives.
 - Technology/Access equity? (i.e., requirements about certain apps, assumptions about smart phone access, requirements to buy calculators, difficulty doing research on “restricted” topics.) How can we comply with state & federal regulations while reducing barriers?
 - ---use next meeting to brainstorm on this issue and develop questions and possible recommendations for the district
 - Neurodiversity? How can DEI, SEL, and SEAC collaborate? E.g., students in life skills classes don’t come to school during exam week--this is an inclusion, equity, and legal issue.

C. Public Comment
There was no public comment

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Approved 12.15.2020