

## **Equity Action Team Meeting Minutes**

### **March 23, 2017 6-8pm**

**In attendance:** Alison Lomaka, Trinia Washington, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Sabrina Kovacs Storlie, Bridget Lamp, Venessa Goldberg, Miga Stringfellow, Dionne Malatesta, Anne Phyfe Palmer, Devin Bruckner, Kiyomi Morton, Robin Counts, Angie Jenkins, Mary Kimball, Briktawite Yimer

### **Welcome and Introduction Activity**

Everyone was invited to use the mood meter when entering. Katie May explained how the mood meter is used in classrooms. Introductions around the room were made. A history of the Equity Action Teams and equity work at TM was given by Casey Sommers.

### **Connection Activity – Walk of Privilege**

Angie Jenkins and Robin Counts led a powerful Walk of Privilege activity, in which people had time to reflect on the obstacles and benefits different people face in their lives. There was sharing and discussion about what people felt about the activity and encouragement to continue to work toward awareness of others' privilege and commitment to make change for all using our privilege.

### **Equity Action Teams Reports**

The six different Equity Action Teams shared updates on their work and took time to field questions. (see the attached spreadsheet for team updates). Here are some highlights from the teams:

- **Black Family Advocacy Support Group (BFASG)** has met four times and will meet again in April. They encourage new members to get involved.
- **Facilitating Conversation Around Race and Equity Team** will co-host the Undoing Racism and Teaching Equity to Our Children workshop this coming Tuesday, 3/28, along with the BAFSG and PTA. They are excited to announce that 48 tickets had been reserved as of Thursday night and hope for great learning and conversation.
- **Gender Imbalance in HCC Team** is planning their first meeting soon to shape what their focus will be.
- **Improving General Education Team** is working on putting together grade level get togethers and coffee at drop off and making sure that each classroom has a class rep.
- **Racial Equity in HCC Team** shared that there has been movement at the district level and the conversations around race and equity in HCC are dramatically different than this time last year. They encouraged anyone who feels strongly about the work to continue to email the School Board or District.
- **Social Studies Curriculum Team** has started creating an Excel spreadsheet with resources (people/organizations) interested in collaborating with TM classes on social studies topics.

Other discussion topics also arose:

- **TM Tour for perspective families:** discussed the need for a training for all tour guides following a philosophy of one school and not separate programs. People felt that separating out into General Education and HCC is not appropriate and that ALL tours should see ALL types of classrooms.
- **Program Names:** returned to a discussion about program names. Admin and parents shared several different viewpoints (not using names at all – staff vary rarely use program names and prefer to say “3<sup>rd</sup> graders”; changing Gen Ed to Scholars (like WMS) or neighborhood students; asking students what they would prefer).
- **PTA:** There is a need for PTA volunteer and Board participation. One suggestion was made to ask for PTA help through an “equity lens” using the Equity Action Teams email list.
- **Social Studies:** Katie discussed the feedback from families and the successes the staff has seen. She shared that she is communicating monthly with School Board and District and pushing for blended Social Studies to stay in place for next year. The School Board is the decision maker on this. She will update the Equity Action Teams if they need support.
- **Programs coming together in PCPs:** This year both 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades are learning in social studies as well as in PCPs. There was discussion about how well this is working, how important it is for it to continue with these classes next year as well as add new grade levels. It was also discussed how difficult a scheduling issue this is.

### **Reflection and Closing**

Everyone was asked to write down feedback regarding the Equity Action Team meetings and also reflect on one thing to do or think about in relation to what was learned or discussed.