

Equity Action Team Minutes

May 24, 2017 6-8pm

In attendance: Alison Miller, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Angie Jenkins, Dionne Malatesta, Venessa Goldberg, Lita Hawkins, Devin Bruckner, Andrea Fontana, Bridget Lamp, Darryl Bingham, Alison Lomaka *(note: more people were present but did not sign in)

Welcome and Introduction Activity

Katie May welcomed the group. Everyone present was invited to introduce themselves and share one positive thing that happened this school year.

Connection Activities

Angie Jenkins led two activities.

1. The first activity asked people to share things you would say or think about a baby or young child. People called out: precious, I love you, adorable, innocent, kisses, milestones, center of everything, joy, safety, vulnerable, treasure. Angie added these words to a large heart on the board. Then Angie asked people to share messages that kids of marginalized groups are exposed to as they get older. Each of these messages was a cut or slash in the heart. She encouraged people to think about this and the damaging long-term impact of these negative messages on how children operate and behave (or not) on a daily basis.
2. The second activity involved getting into various groups of random people and finding 3 things the members of the group had in common. Groups thought of things from common siblings, trips to NYC, love of the Mariners, and shared food tastes. Angie summarized the activity, encouraging folks to try to connect on different levels and ways with people. More connecting will create deeper work.

Equity Action Team Business and Reports

1. Introduction of Venessa Goldberg, PTA Equity Liaison: Venessa will serve as a liaison between the Equity Action Teams and the PTA.
2. Each Equity Action Team provided an update on their team's work. Find updates here: <http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/>

2017-18 School Year – Brainstorm and Discussion

What Have We Learned?

- There is a big desire to continue conversations on race. Needs partnership.
- Schedule the Equity Action Teams Meetings a year in advance.
- Double up on communication methods for better outreach.
- HCC program changes are very difficult and time consuming.
- Reaffirmation that TM community has good resources, especially towards Social Studies.

What Questions Do We Have?

- How can we let people know they can ask questions?
- How can we share stories more authentically and share counter stories?
- How do we continue with discussions around race, and add gender?
- How do we get gender imbalance going? Where does data fit in?

- How do gender and race intersect at our school?
- How can classroom reps be more effective and valuable?
- What does broadening HCC advocacy at District level look like?
- How can we guide teacher towards better utilization of Social Studies resources?

Ideas and Thoughts for Next Year (2017-18):

- BFASG – more community work within group to connect members, provide a place for a louder voice for the underrepresented
- Include on tmlink.org: “Questions about Equity Action Team Meetings? Contact Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.org “Questions about BFASG? Contact...”
- More crossover with PTA
- More discussion about intersectionality, not so single minded goals
- Scholars: explore differences in test scores between HCC/Scholars, continue to explore the loss of Title I funds
- Utilize Classroom Reps. Ask teachers about the best ways to communicate with parents and about needs.
- Translated content for summer outreach programs and HCC and appeals process
- School Board meetings – HCC pressure group
- Diversify Social Studies perspectives by asking teachers to use 3 new sources
- Dad’s Group – Bullpup Dads – pizza party in the fall