



Highly Capable/Racial Equity Services Advisory Committee

John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence

2445 3rd, Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134

Minutes - February 4, 2020, Room 2700

Welcome

Dr. Concie Pedroza opened the meeting by speaking to the group about how in 2012 Seattle Public School District adopted Superintendent Policy #0030, for racial equity, and gave clarity on goals. Facilitator, Melia LaCour of *Becoming Justice*, welcomed the group further and facilitated group introductions. After everyone met the table groups, Superintendent Denise Juneau gave thanks to the group for volunteering for the important work of the Advisory.

Table Introductions

The group was asked to give one word to describe how they feel going into the Advisory, and the responses were: overwhelmed, curious, excited, optimistic, ready, cautious, cautiously hopeful, hopeful, good – ready to go, apprehensive, intimidated, open – ready to communicate, anxious, conflicted, motivated, grateful, cautiously optimistic.

Activity

The group members watched a video, “Take A Seat and Make A Friend,” and then were asked to stand up, find a new friend in order to find something in common. Two pairs meet what do all four have in common.

Tell your Story - Author, Azure Savage and Friends

Azure Savage is the author of a book titled, “You Failed Us: Students of Color Talk Seattle Schools” Azure is a student of Seattle Public School who was in the HC Cohort and Honors Programs, and in the book spoke about how they couldn’t connect to other students. This was in part from having no friends inside or outside of the program. Azure spoke about how they felt disrespected and isolated.

Historical Perspective

In the past we have initiated Task forces for this work, but this time we chose to act differently because historically only recommendations have been provided. The purpose of this Advisory group is to focus on implementation of recent and historical recommendations.

Working Agreements –

Charter

Strategic Plan

Board Policy #0030

Racial Equity Tool
ALTF – Mission, Vision, Commitments

Advising the Advanced Learning Dept.

- **MTSS as frame for student supports**
- **Policy/Procedure Changes**
- **Recommendations on things we can start doing now. (52 of them)**
- **Not waiting for policy change – Change practice now**

Future Meetings:

- **March 3 – 4-7 p.m. at JSCEE**
- **April 7 – 4-7 p.m. at JSCEE**
- **May 5 – 4-7 p.m. at JSCEE**
- **June meeting TBD**