



Highly Capable/Racial Equity Services Advisory Committee

John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence

2445 3rd, Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134

Minutes - March 3, 2020, Auditorium

Present: Matthew Perez, Kate Poux, Manuela Slye, Emijah Smith, Douglas Sohn, Chris Thomas, Gretchen Waschke, Cindy Watters, Bobbi Windus, Berhanu Alemayehu, Kelsey Benslimane, Kaila Davis-Nsimbi, Christina Ellis, Sean Fisher, Rina Geoghagan, Megan Haddock, Romanita Hairston, Gabe Herbison, Damon May, Tina Meade, Paula Montgomery, Gail Morris, Deenie Berry, Melia LaCour, Maki Ichikawa, Nathan Wheeler

Absent: Aneesa Roidad, Marc Salazar, Christine Sanders, Deb Schaaf, Shraddha Shirude, Lisa Batten, Yen Baynes, James Blanton, Carmen Brady, Jackie Cable, Nicole Coates, Crystal Daniels, Sariya Dunbar, Aida Fraser-Hammer, Renee MacLeod, Jenny Miller, Radhika Nair, Dominique Pavageau, Concie Pedroza

Guests: Christine Tang, Ursula White-Oliver, Devin Bruckner, Vanessa Meraki, Colin Pierce, Kari O'Driscoll, Mary Kunce

Introductions and Agenda

Deenie Berry, Supervisor of Advanced Learning Programs and Highly Capable Services for Seattle Public Schools, led the groups through a brief introductory activity. Facilitator Melia LaCour then gave an overview of the agenda.

Connections Activity

The group members reflected on pieces of their identity. They also answered the question: "Why does racial equity matter in the work we are doing together?" Members partnered up to share their thoughts. They also reflected on the question: "How might this inform what you bring to, and receive from, this process?"

Creating Community

Malia led the group members through an overview of the HC RESA charter. Members had many questions about the logistics of various advisory group items, including:

- A clarification of the role of alternates. Alternates will replace members after three missed meetings.
- A clarification of the application process. Additionally, Deenie mentioned a roster of current HC RESA members would be sent to members.

- A clarification of meeting dates. There are more meetings beyond what is currently scheduled. The HC RESA will likely continue meeting for several years with staggered 2-year terms for HC/RESA committee members.

A member discussed the importance of people sharing why they are motivated to be part of the HC RESA. Deenie shared that the work of HC/RESA needs to be grounded in the vision and mission created by the Advanced Learning Task Force.

A member asked about the ability of the Advanced Learning department to respond to false information on social media. Deenie shared there are limited resources to respond. As much as possible, we should try to direct people towards information on the district website.

Community Agreements

Malia presented norms influenced by the *Courageous Conversations About Race* protocol.

- Stay engaged
- Speak your truth
- Expect and accept non-closure
- Experience discomfort
- Center people of color experiences.

Table groups were given time to create their own community agreements. The following additional agreements were shared by group members:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come ready and prepared • Make “I” statements • Make sure we are all here for the same reason • Be action-oriented • Monitor your talking time • Keep an open mind, • Respect cultural experiences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equity of airtime • What is said here stays here; what is learned here leaves here • Take care of your white fragility • We need to acknowledge white supremacy • Intent vs. impact • Sitting with the discomfort • Students need to be central to this work |
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ALTF Recommendations Carousel

Members split up into mixed groups and learned about recommendations created by the Advanced Learning Task Force. Each group spent 10 minutes rotating between stations. Each station featured a section of the recommendations presented by members of the ALTF. Members generated questions about the recommendations captured on sticky notes. The group thanked the following ALTF members for their work and sharing: Vanesa Meraki, Colin Pierce, Kari O’Driscoll, Devin Bruckner, Ursula White-Oliver, Mary Kunce, and Christine Tang.

Housekeeping

The Advisory decided that moving forward, the meetings would begin at 4:30 to accommodate those traveling far and wide.

Adjourn

The meeting did adjourn at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in room 2700 at the John Stanford Center, at 4:30 PM.