

Summary Notes  
Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 9, 2015

Following the site visits with members of the DAC, the group gathered to share their observations. The group welcomed Mercer Island Chief of Police to our meeting where we heard some of the initiatives he has been working on. The Chief also requested that the group assist him in finding diverse community members to help advise him in his role as Chief. The committee agreed to consider his request at the next meeting.

The group then shared observations from their school visit. The feedback was exceedingly positive. Committee members were impressed and surprised at the diversity of students and how students were playing and interacting with all students. One member stated "... everyone seemed welcome on the playground and the lunch room." Many commented that what they had pictured was very different from what they saw. Several people commented on the pictures of students on the walls at MIHS and how many different "shades" of skin were visible. People were impressed with the calmness, order, and focus at each of the schools. Another member stated that he liked what he saw in the hallways because positive messages and themes "... transcended race."

Two negatives were brought up. One member questioned the continued use of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as classic literature in schools and another member heard a story from the high school Principal about a racial incident at the school that was surprising. Dr. Plano reminded the group that our students do make mistakes at school and school is one important place they learn about the consequences to their actions.

Dr. Plano finished the meeting by sharing two stories of district students doing impressive work with both being focused on diversity.