

Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting

March 6, 2015 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Board Room

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Check-in

- Absent – Gary Plano, Julie Ogata, Qian Wang, Ed Holmes
- Each committee member shared recent relevant stories and what was happening in their lives.
- There was a brief discussion on the [Seattle Times article](#) (on how Bellevue School District is handling its growing Asian population) emailed in the morning by Julie Ogata
- There were comments on foreigners' perception of U.S.
- Some shared about International Night at Lakeridge and how coordinating the third grade culture fair with International Night around the same time would be more impactful
- Some shared disappointment that Lunar New Year wasn't mentioned in many classrooms although it is a major cultural event in Asia and we have many Asian students in the district
- Mark shared about representing our district at job fairs

2. Continued review of Diversity Advisory Committee webpage

- Mark clarified bullying as an interpretation of another's behavior by the victim, not the intent of the perpetrator
- One of the goals of education about bullying is to empower the bystanders to report the bullying

3. Recognition of Ruth Saunders - DAC member Rev. Saunders will be honored at The Seattle Medium Newspaper's Annual Black Press Breakfast on Friday, March 20. The event will salute "50 women trailblazers and role models for equal and civil rights."

4. Board Elections and Diversity

- Three of the five school board seats (positions 1, 3, 5) will be up for election in the fall
- One of the members showed interest in running for a position and shared about two upcoming information sessions for prospective candidates
- Other members stressed the importance of having diverse representation at the school board level

5. Initial discussion of guiding strategic actions to fulfill charter expectations and discussion around cultural competencies

- Read through the five basic competence skill areas (valuing diversity, being culturally self-aware, dynamics of difference, knowledge of students' culture, institutionalizing cultural knowledge and adapting to diversity), taken from the [NEA website](#)
- Mark commented that the first three competencies are introspective
- Kristin shared stories of cultural misunderstanding she encountered at IP and read questions about diversity on the EES staff survey
- A lively discussion on the need for cultural competencies training for all staff (and students and parents)
- Some stressed the complexity of the issue, how each culture is uniquely different, and how to deal with bi-racial identity
- An article "Inviting All Students to Learn" was given out for discussion at the next meeting

6. Next Meeting: April 24 (Friday) 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.