

Diversity Advisory Committee 4.24.15

In attendance: Dr. Gary Plano, David Hoffman, Fred Rundle, Sally Loeser, Eunyong Kim, Sophy Yang, Ana Simoes, Ed Holmes, Aisha Jumaan, Ivy Suzuki-Jaecks, Kristen Kim, Wayne Perryman, and Mark Roschy

Introductions – Gary introduced two new members to the Committee - Aisha Jumaan who was in attendance and Tahmina Watson who will attend the May meeting. Dr. Plano also asked that the group think about succession planning for committee members, particularly as the year ends and people potentially rotate off the DAC.

Article Discussion on *Equity Literacy for All* by Paul C. Gorski and Katy Swalwell:

Dr. Plano shared an article earlier in the week and facilitated a discussion about the content of the article and its applicability to our community. The committee appreciated the messages in the article and thought it was applicable to the work we are doing through the committee. Several members shared personal stories that the article inspired, along with some focus on how to grow understanding of diversity not just from the head, but also from the heart.

Dr. Plano transitioned the conversation to a situation, or learning opportunity, that was occurring at Island Park regarding supporting the 5th grade team in both student and staff engagement in diversity issues. David Hoffman and Sally Loeser shared some of the work the school is doing already as well as some of the work that is planned ahead specifically for the 5th Grade at Island Park. Fred Rundle then shared what work has taken place to advance the conversation in the lower grades through the Second Step curriculum.

It was discussed that this is really a three-part conversation between student and teachers, students and students, and students and parents. We have to be considerate of students, staff and families at home and in the community.

The next agenda item was facilitated by Dr. Plano how to involve the wider Mercer Island school staff in making a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A model was shared in the agenda that was discussed by the group. Dr. Plano asked the group to reflect on the draft model and bring back ideas to the next meeting.

Dr. Plano shared that he, Ivy and Wayne would be attending a meeting called “Achieving Racial Equity Through Policy and Beyond at the local ESD. Dr. Plano also shared that the district will be holding a district wide certificated staff training on this topic and that the DAC will assist in developing that agenda.

Adjourn.