

Multicultural Advisory Council

Annual Board Report

June 7, 2017



Council Members

Amy Nakata*
Eileen Okada*
Joyce Nishimura*
Karen Vargas*
Katy Curtis*
Jill Mullins-Cannon*
Kathryn Keve
Steven Soltar
Kathryn McGowen
Tessa Haddon
Marsha Cutting
Christina Wakefield
Theresa Falk

*Executive Board members

Lead Teachers:

- Ryann Deitz - BHS
- Brandi Bispham – WMS
- Susan Tolley - COS
- Sarah Frost - COS
- Maggie Hitchcock - Sakai
- Denise Melton-Todd- Ordway
- Beth Riggs – Wilkes
- Carrie Holloway - Blakely

Additional BISD Staff Members

- Christina Peato
- Sheryl Belt

Mission

To create an inclusive environment where all students, teachers, non-certified personnel, parents and administrators feel safe, secure and understood...truly valued as unique individuals. In this environment each can be free to learn while interacting caringly and positively with the commonalities and differences present in our diverse school community.

This will help our students to freely embrace diversity and differences as desirable traits and as strengths and uniqueness of our country, as they confidently become contributing members and leaders in our increasingly diverse society locally, nationally, and globally.

*Prepared by: Lorraine Brave, Frank Kitamoto,
Council Approved: May 19, 1998*

Multicultural Education Goals

The goals of the multicultural education program are to have each student:

- Feel valued and respected;
- Be successful, both academically and socially;
- Recognize and understand diverse perspectives; and
- Make meaningful contributions in a democratic society.

History



- **1974** – Creation of *They Cast a Long Shadow*
Used as fundraising activity to support professional development
- **1986** - Multicultural Advisory Council established by BISD Board of Directors; Creation of Multicultural Coordinator Position.
- **1998** – Created mission statement
- **1999** – Premiere of movie screening *Snow Falling on Cedars*
Used proceeds to support professional development (balance \$6500)
- **1999** – Advocated for Title IX Indian Education Grant
 - Grant in place with part time coordinator

History (continued)

- **2002** – Sponsored the Living Voice Theatre as a fundraiser – featured *Within the Silence*, the story of the Japanese American experience during WWII
 - Proceeds benefited teacher scholarships for professional development
- **2005** – Sponsored Dr. Geneva Gay workshop:
Integrating Multicultural Education into K-12 Curriculum
- **2009** – Developed critical response procedures for schools when dealing with issues of bias, harassment or hate.
- **2011** – Initiated a lunch buddy program at Ordway.
Mentoring program at BHS and Blakely.

History (continued)

- **August 2011** – Sponsored sovereignty curriculum: Government to Government professional development – developing a better understanding of tribal governance and U.S. government.
- **2012** – Lunch buddy program continues; established website for MAC; teacher grants re-established.
- **2013**- Worked with district to gain a better understanding of the issues and how the district is addressing these issues; continued teacher grants; supported lead teachers.
- **2014**- Established “Listening Tours” of schools; continued teacher grants; supported lead teachers.
- **2015** – Sponsored *Snow Falling on Cedars* fund raising event to support development of Dr. Frank Kitamoto legacy project.

2016-2017 Council Goals



- **Recruit MAC lead teacher participation from all schools**
- **Recruit high school student representation**
- **Finalize and award the first annual Dr. Frank Kitamoto Legacy Award for Inclusion, Civil Rights & Social Justice**
- **Advocate for and support multicultural competency and equity training for BISD staff.**
- **Participate in Social Studies review and Social Emotional Learning curriculum adoption process**
- **Develop deeper relationship with Suquamish tribe**
- **Sponsor a fundraising activity to support MAC projects.**

Accomplishments

2016-2017

Increased Council membership with full representation from all BISD schools, board member representation and a high school student representative.

Continued conversations with building principals to foster relationships and meaningful discussion regarding school culture and student needs.

Awarded five (5) teacher grants to support multicultural education totaling \$1,324.78

- **Human Rights Conference registration: 6 students/2 adults**
- **Holocaust themed books for BHS Library**
- **Multicultural themed books for Odyssey program**
- **Diversity education books for 2nd grade at Blakely**
- **Wilkes 3rd/4th Multiage Program field trip to Suquamish Museum**

Accomplishments

(continued)

Continued learning focus at each MAC meeting by viewing several segments from the Seattle Times video collection “Under Our Skin.”

Launched and awarded first annual Dr. Frank Kitamoto Legacy Award for Inclusion, Civil Rights, & Social Justice.

Supported training of eight (8) teachers in Since Time Immemorial training at Suquamish Tribal Center. Two teachers, Christina Peato and Katie Zonoff, became STI trainers.

Katie Zonoff supported 8th grade social studies teachers as they work to develop American/Washington State History syllabus and activities with integrated STI resources.

Accomplishments

(continued)

Katy Curtis (MAC member) continues liaison work with members of Suquamish tribe to support the development of local curriculum resources.

Sponsored three “Salon Nights” to increase community awareness and understanding of multicultural issues.

- **“13th” Netflix documentary - January (institutional racism post Civil War to present)**
- **Evening of Remembrance - Japanese Exclusion**
- **Showing of “Salam Neighbor” - Syrian refugee crisis and Kitsap County Immigration Center speakers**

Worked with BHS staff and students to broaden depictions of multiculturalism in hallway banners.

Supported WMS Culture Fair

Requests

Continue participation of board members at monthly MAC meetings.

Committed priority on equity issues and monitoring of student academic data and social emotional indicators. Support work to close achievement and opportunity gaps, promote inclusion, and prevent harassment and bullying.

Support funding to provide training to increase awareness and skill in recognizing and addressing equity and exclusion issues.

Continued financial support of MAC, multicultural teacher grants, and diversity clubs for secondary students.

Respect holidays of the world's religions with significant work restrictions and not schedule events on these dates.