

Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC)
Ordway Elementary School
February 28, 4:30-6:30

Voting Members:

Amy Nakata	Chair/Community
Karen Vargas	Co-Vice
	Chair/Community
Katy Curtis	Co-Vice-Chair
Jill Mullins-Cannon	Treasurer/Parent
Eileen Okada	Past Chair/Community
Kathy McGowan	Parent
Marsha Cutting	Community member
Steven Soltar	Community member
Tess Haddon	Parent
Spencer Bispham	BHS student

BISD – Non-Voting Members:

Denise Melton-Todd	Ordway
Beth Riggs	Wilkes
Carrie Holloway	Blakely
Susan Tolley	Commodore
Maggie Hitchcock	Sakai
Brandi Bispham	Woodward
Sheryl Belt	BISD Asst. Superintendent

Guests: Melinda Reynvann – Ordway principal
Mev Hoberg – BISD School Board Vice President
Theresa Falk, parent

Not Present: Sarah Frost – EHHS
Ryenn Dietz – BHS
Christina Peato - Indian Ed Coordinator
Kathryn Keve – Community
Joyce Nishimura – Recorder/Community
Christina Wakefield - Parent

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Amy Nakata at 4:40 p.m. Agenda was passed out and 1/24/17 minutes were approved.
- II. Introductions around the room. Theresa Falk, a parent and former teacher who has moved to Bainbridge Island from Hawaii, was brought by Tess Haddon and Theresa has expressed interest in joining MAC.
- III. Question for Principal – Melinda Reynvann

“What is the one thing, given unlimited resources, you would want implemented that would have an impact on the multicultural/diversity/inclusion experience for your students?”

Ordway has a sister school in Ometepe. A family from Bainbridge Island visits Ometepe each year and takes books to the school. At Ordway, teachers strive to build empathy in their students by asking students to put themselves in other’s shoes. If unlimited resources were available, Melinda said she would want to send students and teachers to Ometepe.

Another way Ordway teaches their students to be empathetic is to have families buy Spanish books from their Scholastic book drive to send to Ometepe.

Discussion with Melinda included the following:

Diverse learners – Students are engaged, but female and low income students are not growing at

the same rate as others, although they do catch up later. Recommend exposing such students to STEM, since low income students can pick up STEM even if English is not their first language.

Immigration fears with students – Schools need to send message that “all students are welcomed.” The three teachers in Ordway’s Spanish immersion program help families with enrolling their older students in other BISD schools. Usually, contact with parents is via phone since families generally do not have access to email. The hope is that these families can trust these Ordway teachers.

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center wants to be contacted if ICE is on the island.

The Girl Scouts organization has let their members know that information collected is only for Girl Scouts’ use, however they are still trying to determine what information has to be turned over to ICE. ICE often waits outside of schools to pick up students.

This type of activity by ICE promotes a fear based reality about attending school with students. Schools need to become familiar with the laws surrounding immigration - Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center is a resource. School counselors should become educated about this topic.

Mev Hoberg, BISD School Board Vice President, read the School Board’s statement welcoming all students – even students without documentation. BISD will not ask students for documentation.

From OSPI, state laws protect transgender students.

All this highlights the need for schools to require emergency contact information from parents in the event of ICE raids, earthquakes, etc.

What contributes to gender differences? Melinda explained that girls are slow to engage when younger, but it’s been noted that BHS valedictorians are primarily girls. She recommends enticing girls with helping to solve problems. Talked about the Legos issue with the Blakely kindergarten teacher.

How to bring BISD School Board’s statement to life? All students can participate in experiencing what it feels like to be excluded. School counselors should work with student council to make this happen.

- IV. Seattle Times “Under Our Skin” Video - What do we mean when we talk about race
<http://projects.seattletimes.com/2016/under-our-skin/#> - Video on white privilege was viewed.

Discussion included the following:

Peggy McIntosh – speaking at UW on April 11.

Bryan Stevenson - speaking in Seattle on March 28, but event is sold out.

When Affirmative Action was White book by Ira Katz Nelson – We have had affirmative action for years and during 1930-1965, whites were the recipients and given advantages.

V. Old Business

A. Update from Committees

- Training – nothing new to report.
- Frank Award – Nomination form and selection criteria working with United Brothers & Sisters (UBS)/No Place for Hate.

UBS still needs to identify organizations that could nominate students for the

award. We need to include EHHS students for the award. Maggie Hitchcock will ask Trish Corsetti (EHHS teacher) if forms can be dropped off at the EHHS office (with Michelle Hope in EHHS office). Maggie will also ask Trish to promote the award at EHHS, as should UBS. All nomination forms – whether for BHS or EHHS students – shall be sent in to Tracy Shulman’s classroom (UBS co-advisor).

Timeline for the award:

- April 10, Mon, (right after Spring Break) through May 1: Nomination period is open.
 - May 23: Final MAC general council meeting at Yonder. Recipient selected by then and honored at Yonder meeting.
 - June: Recipient formally honored at Senior Awards Night (This year only. In subsequent years, recipient will be honored at MLK Assembly.)
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- Social Studies Curriculum – This committee’s activities include monitoring what is displayed in school hallways. BHS has banners that do not accurately reflect the school’s community. They are changing slowly with 1 banner (Henry Ford quote) having been taken down. The Photography class students have not yet digitized new photos for the banners. Money for the new banners is not the issue for the delay – the Rotary Club paid for the banners. The delay is due to BHS already having these new banners, so replacing a few is thought to be not a priority. Only a few needed to be taken down with only 2 or 3 new banners needed.

The new banners need to include images of a more diverse community. The Photography class students are busy and in Dec 2016, when first approached about providing new photos, they were nearing the end of the semester. Now there is a new group of Photography students. The following were involved in the discussion about needing new images:

- Leadership class
- Duane Fish, BHS principal
- Healthy Youth Alliance students
- Yearbook students.

Kathy McGowan will look through BHS yearbooks (found at Bainbridge Island Historical Museum) for photos of a more diverse student population. Kathy will present proposed photos to BHS Leadership class (teacher is Katie Leigh). She will also check with BHS yearbook teacher to find digital photos. Requirements for the images:

- Steve Soltar will find the image quality requirements (minimum jpeg quality) for banners.
- Images have to be “groups” of kids.
- Images should show students doing an activity.

- Community Events –
Salon Night, 7-9 p.m., Mar 23, BHS LGI, “Only What We Can Carry (OWWCC)”

This is a panel discussion for teachers led by Jon Garfunkel to work with survivors of WWII Japanese internment that bears witness to that experience. This event will be aimed at adults and students. Teachers are invited, but Jon has already given this presentation to teachers.

Publicity – Flyers are needed at Senior Center, T&C bulletin board, BIAM, etc.

Kathy McGowan offered to post flyers.

Light refreshments – Sheryl Belt will send out email for sign up once date is confirmed.

Set up - Sheryl will work with BHS to get tables set up in LGI's lobby.

Katy Curtis will invite BIJAC members to pass out flyers and promote the March 30th event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the removal of Japanese from Bainbridge Island.

B. Update on Suquamish Tribe History Curriculum - *They Cast a Long Shadow* book

The book was written in 1975 with language that was appropriate for the time to capture the history of non-white communities on Bainbridge Island. Bill Covert, Wilkes 4th grade teacher, will share the book with the Social Studies curriculum committee. Only editing, the creation of an index, and the addition of new photos were done. In order to be completed, the book needs to be re-written by the ethnic groups mentioned in the book. MAC and BIHM both have a digital copy of the book. Sheryl Belt will pay the invoice for the editor's services using BISD funds.

Ordway students are visiting Suquamish Museum. It is a Washington state requirement that students be taught history of their "local" tribe – Suquamish Tribe. Use Since Time Immemorial (STI) website for training. A team from the Suquamish Museum, who has received funding from a foundation, is creating the Suquamish curriculum and will share it with the Suquamish School District.

BISD teachers made up the largest contingent of teachers trained in Native American history at Suquamish Museum in late-2016.

The goal is to integrate Native American history when teaching other subjects (e.g., when teaching transportation, explain that Squamish used canoes), but also need to teach Native American history in the traditional timeline format.

Deadline for incorporating local Native American history is when a school district's Social Studies curriculum is next reviewed. Options for meeting the goal include:

- BISD Social Studies teachers providing the curriculum they use to the Suquamish Museum team and have it vetted by them.
- Reusing the curriculum of another tribe that has developed a strong 3rd grade Native American curriculum.
- Or using the STI website to base development of a new curriculum since the site meets state standards.

VI. New Business –

- A. Human Rights Conference – Prison issue was one topic. K-2nd grade expulsion rate has gone up 40% nation-wide.
- B. Jewish centers on Bainbridge Island – Do they need support from MAC? Jill Mullins-Cannon will follow up.
- C. Jamie Ford, author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, has written a Facebook post on Trump's travel ban.

- D. Bainbridge Island magazine - Steve Soltar wrote to the magazine's editor because he was concerned that the magazine did not offer much diversity. The editor wants suggestions for articles that should be featured in the magazine – maybe invite to March 23rd Salon Night event.

- IV. For the Good of the Order - Meeting Calendar & Refreshment Signup
Reminder given for next meeting – March 28 at Sakai

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Nakata