

Bainbridge Island School District #303
Multicultural Advisory Council

MAC Council meeting

Jan. 24, 2017 - 4:30 - 6:30

Woodward Middle School

Present:

Voting Members

Amy Nakata, Chair/Community
Karen Vargas, Co-Vice Chair/Community
Joyce Nishimura, Recorder/Community
Jill Mullins-Cannon, Treasurer/Community
Tess Haddon, Parent
Kathryn McGowan, Parent
Kathryn Keve, Community
Steven Soltar, Community
Marsha Cutting, Community
Spencer Bispham, BHS Student

Staff Members – Non-Voting

Sheryl Belt, District Administrator
Sheila Jakubik, School Board Member
Brandy Bispham, Woodward MS
Susan Tolley, COS -K-8
Beth Riggs, Wilkes Elementary
Ryenn Dietz, BHS lead teacher
Carrie Holloway, Blakely Elementary Lead Teacher

Not present:

Eileen Okada, Past Chair/Community
Katy Curtis, Co-Vice Chair/Community
Christina Peato, Indian Ed Coordinator
Sarah Frost, COS – Eagle Harbor HS
Christina Wakefield, Parent
Margaret Hitchcock, Sakai Intermediate

Meeting called to order by Amy Nakata - 4:36 pm

Agenda passed out

Minutes of Nov. 29 meeting accepted

I. Conversation with Woodward Principal, Mike Florian:

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

- A. Expand multicultural experiences for students – through regular monthly programs or seminars like Living Voices.
- B. Develop a school-wide focus at the middle school. We would like to follow Woodward’s legacy of constitutional rights and speaking up on the wrongs that take place in society.
 - Next fall, American history and WA. State History will be covered in 8th grade. We are working on including field trips to Suquamish Museum and the tribal High School.
 - We could also include visiting the BI Historical Museum and the Exclusion Memorial, so that all students could get out there.
 - Difficulty: Training staff – We had a 25% turnover this year and many teachers need training.
- C. Discussion:
 - Do ethnic groups reach out from the community to the school? Not too much. Culture Fair is a positive way for families to come together.
 - WA. State history need updating. Native American story will be better told. Sheryl has teacher training scheduled on March 13 on Cultures connecting.
 - In this community, some think we don’t have to address cultural issues, but we must be more aware than in communities that look diverse. Good to look at other districts and see what they are doing. In Kitsap County, lots of training opportunities.
 - ASIS Training – Kitsap Strong – How cultural differences make it difficult to function in school.
 - Traumatic experiences of violence.
 - Training to create a community truancy bill. Dealing with attendance problems which does not end up in the justice system.

II. Seattle Times “All Lives Matter” Video – was shown.

Film addressed police brutality and the criminal justice system, followed by a discussion.

III. MLK Assembly Reports

A. Woodward MLK Assembly – Brandi

- Living Voices Presentation - 1st person monologue on being black in America. Spencer Bispham spoke at the WMS assembly.
- Discussion followed on how and why it is difficult for teachers and staff to speak out when they overhear inappropriate comments. It is easier to ignore. But staff can speak the truth and model respect.
- We can invite students to think critically.
- Students are more combative this year. How do we teach kindness? Teachers recognize the problem and are being more proactive and training kids to be more proactive. We can make sure that they are aware and capable of making good decisions.

B. Bainbridge High School

- Spencer spoke
- Essay winners were read and announced
- Amy launched the Frank Kitamoto Legacy award
- An inappropriate comment came from a student in the audience which stopped the presentation and resulted in total silence. Katy Curtis and Karen Vargas acknowledged the comment and turned it into a teachable moment. After the assembly, many students came up to apologize. The student involved was a special needs student and came up with his teacher.
- Discussion followed that we all need to develop the skills that Katy had to immediately intervene.
- There is online advice on what to do, how to do it, how to use your voice and by an ally and not a bystander. This is all part of “stop the bullying” campaign.

C. Blakely School – Jeremy Rothbaum had his wonderful musical assembly where students told the story.

D. Wilkes School – Great Kindness Challenge on Jan. 19.

IV. Salon Night Report Documentary – Kathy McGowan

- 13th was shown at the library - Jan. 19, 2017
- 30 people showed up – perfect size to handle discussion.
- Popcorn refreshments and water worked out nicely.
- Follow-up panel on King County prisons.
- For the first event, it was great!!

V. Other community events

- Kitsap County Human Rights conference – Peggy Ellison
- What’s the Harm panel – on substance use and abuse – Tues. Jan. 31
- Movie – *Unslut* – on sexual assault – Feb. 6, 6:30 pm BIMA
What is consent, what is not. All teens should see it
- NW African Museum – Jan. 28 – May 28 - Artist looking at systemic oppression in Seattle
Current displacement of black people
2300 S. Massachusetts St. – near Jackson

VI. Committee Reports

- High School Banners of students and virtues. Shortcoming on who’s represented – mostly white students. It will cost \$1200 to replace. We are attempting to get UBS and students involved.
- Frank Kitamoto Legacy Award – This year, we will give the award to a Senior at the moving up assembly. Nominations open in April. Next year, it will be awarded to any high school student at the MLK assembly.

Next meeting - Feb. 28 Ordway Elementary School

Adjourned 6:38

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Nishimura