

Bainbridge Island School District #303
Multicultural Advisory Council

MAC Council meeting

May 23, 2017 4:30 - 6:30

Yonder

Present:

Voting Members

Amy Nakata, Chair/Community
Eileen Okada, Past Chair/Community
Karen Vargas, Co-Vice Chair/Community
Katy Curtis, Co-Vice Chair/Community
Joyce Nishimura, Recorder/Community
Jill Mullins-Cannon, Treasurer/Community
Steven Soltar, Community
Marsha Cutting, Community

Staff Members – Non-Voting

Sheryl Belt, District Administrator
Ryenn Dietz, BHS lead teacher
Beth Riggs, Wilkes Elementary
Margaret Hitchcock, Sakai Intermediate
Susan Tolley, COS – K-8
Brandy Bispham, Woodward MS

Guests: Mara Smith, Kay Nakao, Lilly Kodama, Frances Ikegami, Sharon Kitamoto, Peter Ikegami

Not present:

Kathryn McGowan, Parent	Christina Peato, Indian Ed Coordinator
Tess Haddon, Parent	Sarah Frost, COS – Eagle Harbor HS
Christina Wakefield, Parent	Carrie Holloway, Blakely Elementary Lead Teacher
Kathryn Keve, Community	Denise Melton-Todd – Ordway Lead teacher
Spencer Bispham, BHS Student	

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm

Agenda and minutes were read and approved with corrections

I. Frank Kitamoto Legacy Award for Inclusion, Civil Rights, & Social Justice

- Three high school teachers, Amy Nakata, and a student were on the committee to select winners for this award.
- Awarded to a graduating senior this year only, to be presented at Awards Night
- Next year the award will be open to all 9-12 students and presented at the MLK Assembly.
- Winners this year: Mara Smith of BHS and Arianna Carillo of Eagle Harbor HS
- They will receive a perpetual plaque to be housed at BHS and each an individual plaque.

II. BHS Banners – Steven Soltar

- Steven met with Amanda Ward and Principal Duane Fish. The new banners are much more inclusive
- One quote was changed since it was taken from Henry Ford. Some of the older banners have value and were kept. Two or three banners were replaced to include a broader spectrum of the student body.
- Students did all the photographs.

III. Suquamish Tribe History

- Emily Eagan is working on social studies curriculum in 8th grade US State History including Suquamish history. One of the issues is that we currently start our history in the east. We should start everywhere.
- Survey went out to all social studies teachers on what they know about STI. We are making progress.
- It was suggested that all teachers of all disciplines take the survey.

IV. MAC Accomplishments for 2016-17 school year:

- A. Salon Nights
- B. Addressing and resolving the Banner issue
- C. Launching the Frank Kitamoto Legacy Award

V. Focus for next year:

As mentioned in our goals as stated in the Handbook – “To feel valued and respected”, we should keep this in mind as we develop our focus for next year.

A. Staff support

- How can we involve and help lead teachers?
- How can MAC add value to time teachers spend to do MAC’s work?
- Assessment of staff training around bullying, harassment, etc. Continue effective training on a regular basis.
4-5-year plan – how can we help to create a plan to have consistent training
- Lead teachers can look at the curriculum and interweave MAC issues.
- Goal: How can we facilitate the transfer of information so teachers can be more of a conduit to buildings.

B. Salon nights – Continue our community program.

Four events might be a good goal.

C. Retreat in August will be an appropriate time to finalize goals.

D. Student Representation – Having Spencer involved has been a positive asset. We hope he or others will be involved.

E. Meeting with Principals:

- Allows us to see all the good stuff that is going on and we hear ideas of what people want to do, but there is no action. Perhaps we can adjust our question to what we can do and we can carry it through.
- What was the biggest challenge last year, how did you handle it, what resources were not available.
- The purpose of inviting principals to our meeting was to build rapport. We have probably built enough of a relationship to develop dialogue instead of reporting.

VI. Mara Smith – Recipient of Frank Kitamoto Award

Mara was introduced to our guests, the Kitamoto family and Kay Nakao. We congratulated her on her work with SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance), a thriving social club at BHS that have taken on impactful projects. Mara offered a student’s perspective of the culture of BHS that we may not know.

- She shared her insights on how welcoming we are on intersexuality, efforts to decrease the slurs on campus, attitudes toward transgender neutral bathrooms, etc.
- Most students don’t feel safe and endure verbal assaults. It is more difficult in a small community where you have known each other for years.
- Hope to see more work with teachers on recognizing and honoring students’ chosen pronouns, names. It is most difficult in Foreign language classes that are gender specific.
- Other groups that feel marginalized: Ethnic queer student – Comments have slight racist overtones.
- A lot of comments are due to ignorance. Or they use ignorance as an excuse and not willing to try to learn.
- LGBT students are so stigmatized that if others stand up to defend them, they themselves become the targets.
- Teachers shut down conversations, not comments.
- The District has specific guidelines, and Amii Pratt did a workshop, but we still have work to do.

Students with disabilities:

- Students are more isolated because people don’t take the time
- There is a program to try to normalize hanging out together, but it’s already segmented

Posters & video on consent: How easy is it to be female?

- The video on what was consent was perceived as a joke. It was handled poorly and everyone made it a joke and funny.
- There is an increase in sexual assault in the last 4 years. There is blatant verbal assault.
- School dress code: Focused more on female dress and not so much for males.
- High School girls are often sexualized by immature freshman boys, and it’s becoming more normalized.
- Students want to be involved and share their ideas if MAC goes to them and builds trust and rapport.

VII. Election Results of 2017-18 School year:

Chair: Karen Vargas

Co-Vice Chair: Katy Curtis and Kathy McGowan

Co-Recorder/Treasurer: Marsha Cutting and Steven Soltar

Thank you for serving!!

VIII. Retreat: Monday, Aug. 21, 9:00 – 1:00

Suquamish Museum

Pot luck Lunch

Meeting adjourned 6:20

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Nishimura