

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2020

In attendance: Ms. Wiltshire, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Foster, Mr. Starr

Regrets: Mrs. Blair, Mrs. English, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Terra-Allen, Mr. Shannon

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Mr. Starr welcomed parents and led the prayer.

Purpose of the Meeting:

- Meeting tonight to do something fantastic for the school
- Purpose is to discuss and make decisions about initiatives from now to the end of June
- Embrace diverse people, connect with community, apply lens of diversity to all school

Activity Updates:

School Council Funds: At the November Catholic School Council Advisory meeting, 5% of the budget was approved for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which equates to \$2482.44.

Implemented 2019-2020 Initiatives:

1. Trilingual O Canada, (daily) Honouring the Land (November)
2. Establish Student Diversity Council (October)
3. Sita Jayaraman attended student Diversity Council Meeting to meet students. (October)
4. Sita Jayaraman attended first Diversity Meeting to see how we run the committee (October)
5. Vow of Silence – recognize the start of children’s rights (November)
6. Traditions around the World Cultural Walks (December)
7. Cross connections between what council does and what students do – Students will join the beginning of Diversity Committee meeting to update committee on activities to date. (once per term)
8. Indigenous Display in front foyer (November)
9. Holocaust Liturgy, display in front foyer (January)
10. Access ABA Hotline (when needed)
11. Map of the World, Students tag where they were born (February)
12. Equity and Inclusion Professional Activity Day: Human Rights, Cultural Relevant Responsive Pedagogy, Demographic Data focus (February)
13. World Autism Day (April 2)
14. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Dress Loud Day – (May 15)
15. Family Fun Fair –variety of food trucks (June 4)

2019-2020 Planning Items and Upcoming Initiatives: italicized items are action items

School Diversity Poster options

- Window Wraps: in gym window, divide into 3 vertically You can repeat on three windows and or add
- Size is the same as the cardboard 26 x 18 \$140.00 excluding printing picture
- ACRYLIC- not protected by scratches but wipes and brightens the picture image
- Traditional picture frame with Acrylic replacing glass for safety.
- Rounded \$114 sale ... not as strong
- Square frame traditional frame \$155.00
- Custom over \$300.00

Group voted for window wrap- placement library window beside middle door, Jay will contact print service to confirm price

Each month, the Diversity Committee (parents) can include a suggested movie and literature lists with a diversity focus and a description of the focus for the month. The Diversity Council (students) will provide a description of school initiatives related to the focus for the month. The student Diversity Council will provide ideas for each month

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| JANUARY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese New Year (25) • International day of Commemoration of Victims of the Holocaust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Holocaust Liturgy (27) ❖ Display in front foyer cabinet ❖ Grade 8 class participate in specific lesson related to the Holocaust ❖ Recommended feature films in newsletter for each month. <u>Shidler List, A Beautiful Life, Holocaust, The Zookeepers Wife</u>. The group recognize the content is heavy and this is a suggested list for families. We need to consider positive movies. Valerie suggested Heritage Moments and to work with Librarian technician for literature suggestions ❖ Chinese New Year – Bonnie provided an activity for students, Mike said we can forward to teacher’s week of Jan. 27th |
| FEBRUARY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bonnie suggested we focus on Canadian History rather than tradition individuals. Harriot Tubman is an example. Think outside the box not traditional faces, example Lieutenant Governor Michelle Jean ❖ Books, feature films; <u>Harriot, Twelve Years A Slave, 42, Hidden Figures</u> • Map of the World Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ we will find out where we are all from? We will create a legend to represent the number of students in our school from various cultures. Gaby offered to create title. Valarie suggested covering the top with protective covering. We need to cost source then report back from Student committee to see what they will do. • Equity and Inclusion Professional Activity Day |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Human Rights, Cultural Relevant Responsive Pedagogy, Demographic Data focus for staff |
| MARCH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Women’s History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Focus on diverse women, including indigenous ❖ Feature films – <u>Hidden Figures, Jane Goodall</u> ❖ Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Defined as “Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person’s lifetime”.¹ ❖ We will look to student diversity council for suggestions |
| APRIL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Autism Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Raise the Flag Day (Apr 2), wear blue, donations collected for Autism Ontario ❖ Women in Milton redesign t shirts for themed day. ❖ How do we get parents of autistic students involved in this day? Reach out to parents to see if the parents will give permission for students to be photographed Raising the Flag. ❖ Valerie suggested, if kids are not participating, they could be included in a video. They were a part of it. ❖ This would be the first-time school would engage parents in activity. It will begin to show parents students are included. Are students saying prayers? Bonnie said, they can be lonely because they are integrated not included. Time to bring in inclusion factor of all kids in every way. Important for peers to see what students can do. Social media has an absence of special needs students ❖ Movie suggestions; <u>Autistic Doctor, A Typical, The Resident</u> • Diversity Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ School UN Day – touch base with student diversity committee for ideas like around the world, what do they want to do to showcase different cultures. Music, throughout the day play different music from other cultures. Something to engage the senses. Share recipes. Fun facts, kid can write a fun fact about culture and switch it off with some one |
| MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinco de Mayo – (Mexican Heritage) (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What is Cinco do Mayo? Heritage Moment, poster, • Family of Schools Event (7) – Breakout Session: Vaping, Mental Health, CYC, Jam Gamble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jam Gamble would bring a diversity lens to the event. Jam Gamble, can she attend the event. Fees \$ 850 – \$1000 parent and student presentations. Bonnie will book for night event. 7:40 – 8:10 8:15 – 8:45 p.m. Jean Vanier. Mike will look at dates for gr. 3-5 presentation • Speech and Hearing Awareness Month - Dress Loud Day (15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ last year students made posters. This year Gabby had an idea to have student make posters with sign language words or each classroom dedicates a bulletin board with sign language, meaning. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bonnie shared; Quinn enjoyed learning letters of alphabet in sign language. Students could spell their name. Gaby will contact Nora for ideas ❖ Nicola can contact Champion and they can advertise wearing dress loud. ❖ Nicola wants to bring in two young women to share a video about being deaf and growing up in Milton. Are the ladies for or against technology to aid in hearing? It is a sensitive subject. We need to make sure we do not offend anyone. Reach out to Drury School for the Deaf. • Movie: <u>Switched at Birth</u>, Gaby will look into this. |
| JUNE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Day (21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ First Nations Nights. Check with Sherry and promote board nights. We will ask Mary English for insight into this recognition. ❖ How Treaties were made? ❖ Movies: <u>Whale Rider</u>, Hockey movie, Indigenous girl Noble Peace Prize • Family Fun Fair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bookings for 8 Diversity Food Trucks (plus Ice-Cream Truck) |

Open: Valerie: Liked the Christmas Concert. When photographing students who are racialized, we must adjust light so we can see the students with darker skin.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2020

References:

1. Developmental Disabilities: Delivery of Medical Care for Children and Adults. I. Leslie Rubin and Allen C. Crocker. Philadelphia, Pa, Lea & Febiger, 1989.