

PLR Black Families Advisory Group Meeting

November 28, 2022

Meeting Link: meet.google.com/vmr-qfmc-hke

Present: Sean McCarthy (principal), Navneet Singh (VP), Kristine Lukawecky (VP), Emefa Q., Renesha S., Tanesha F., Vicky H., Anaaya G., Gillian T., Angella T., Julia M., Mary O., Virginia N.

Welcome - Sean McCarthy

Land Acknowledgement - Kristine Lukawecky

(connection to Land Acknowledgement [Anti Racist Educator Reads Podcast](#))

Introductions - Everyone

Meeting Norms - Navneet Singh

1. Report from PLR Equity Team - Emefa Quist and Renesha Spertalis
 - Equity Team has worked together to plan a framework to share with our staff at our upcoming December Staff meeting
 - Thank you to everyone from this group who filled out the form recommending presenters - we will continue to work to connect with them
 - The Black Advocacy and Education Initiative Group for students is up and running on Tuesdays at first break
 - Several students from last year's club have joined over the last couple of weeks to share the work that they led last year
2. Presentation by Former PLR Students from Black Advocacy and Education Group
 - Vicky shared that the group worked to educate teachers and students about the importance of including Black voices
 - Anaaya shared that the goal was to educate others about Black achievement and excellence, including Black educators within the HDSB
 - This work was highlighted on the group's social media page
 - Vicky shared that moving forward they would like to see more resources and learning take place
3. Guest Speaker - Virginia Nsitem from Garth Webb's Black and Biracial Parent Advisory Group
 - Former VP started the group for parents/guardians at Garth Webb following the murder of George Floyd in 2020
 - Parallel group was also held for students
 - Initial purpose was to share feelings in community with others
 - Since then focus has been on supporting the success of Black students
 - Three Main Projects:

- i. Graduating Black and Bi-Racial students formed a Graduating Alumni Group
 - ii. Created a Network of Black and Bi-Racial Professionals who are available to come in for career talks etc.
 - iii. Started Annual Celebration of Excellence for Black and Bi-Racial students who Graduate (plan to also invite graduates who provide mentorship)
- o Hoping to have influence on feeder schools - getting started with this
- o 10-12 parents in our group and includes allies
- o Had a table at Grade 9 parent night to get more parents to join
- o Flyers in the Principal's Blog to recruit parents as well
- o One challenge is how to reach the Black community
- o Question from PLR - What is the Group's Mandate?
- o Mandate shared electronically with all members of our PLR Group
- o Garth Webb Group has accessed PIC and Pro Grant funds for events
- o It has been helpful to have allies
- o Some successes have included seeing a shift within classrooms - for example, incorporating foods from around the world (e.g., Nigeria) in Foods course and learning about Black scientists in Science class
- o Another success - Coop Placements in Black-owned businesses
- o Focus on encouraging members of group to attend School Council
- o Virginia has given us permission to share her email address with Group members

4. Meeting Logistics - Discussion

- o Items Arising from Virginia's presentation
 - i. Discuss Mandate of Group
 - ii. Discuss name of group
 - iii. Discuss organization of group e.g., secretary? Agenda? Etc.

5. Black History Month - Discussion

- o Angella Tardieu will share field trip ideas with admin
- o E.g., Oakville Museum provides field trips focused on history
- o E.g., Steel Drums
- o Admin will share these and other resources with staff to encourage a wider variety of field trip choices
- o Emefa shared that the Board sometimes puts out virtual events that classes can attend during Black History Month and in the past Dwayne Morgan attended PLR

6. Grade 8 Career Day - Discussion

- o Renesha and Kristine will meet to discuss this further and to pick up where we left off prior to the pandemic

7. Items for Next Meeting Agenda

- Group Mandate
- Name of Group
- Organization of Group
- Grade 8 Career Day Discussion
- Sean will invite Shelita Walker to one of our meetings this year

Future Meeting Dates

- Monday, February 27th at 6:30 pm
- Monday, March 27th at 6:30 pm
- Monday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm