MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
20 Endicott Road, Boxford MA 01921

"Anti-Racism" Subcommittee Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
June 14, 2021-Minutes

Members Present: Tasha Cooper, Bonnie Thornborough, Bill Hodges
Others Present: Zillie Bhuju, Melissa Ogdon, and 24 community members (Jenny Gustafson, Abi Warren, Alex Barrett, Carroll Crispo, Chris Faddis, Darlene Vella, Elsa Mersha, Fana Mersha, G. Faddis, Greg's phone, Jamie Zahlway Belsito, Dolly Mcllvane, Joanne Spofford, Joe Vella, Joey, Julie Cane, Kathleena Scarpato, Kathy Harlor, Kelly, Michelle Aitkan, M. Ice, Patti Bernhart, Trevor Currier, Yuching Buehler)

1. **Meeting called to order at 2:00.**

2. **Zillie asked for it to be recorded for note taking.**

3. **Approved 5/17 meeting minutes**. Bonnie made the motion, Bill 2nd, all approved.

4. **Reviewed timeline of policy:** Petition with 900+ names of alumni and families last summer asking for more from Masco including anti-racism curriculum, presentation from alumni and current students last summer, Anti-Racism sub committee (AR sub) was formed, worked on updating Massachusetts Association of School Committee's (MASC) resolution to make it Masco-ready, community feedback received, full committee approved it and superintendent sent to entire district (by blog and email) along with the sub-committee's meeting schedule and contact info, heard from interested students clubs about their experiences with racism at Masco including Appreciating Cultures and Ethnicities (ACE), Women and Gender Studies (WGS) and Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), started and stopped and then started again discussing policy, met with MASC chair about policy, full committee had presentation from peer leader advisors, the community relations committee had listening sessions all year, collaborated and had open meeting with policy sub-committee, first read in full committee as routine, policy was discussed frequently during the school committee updates throughout the year as it was started, tabled, the started again, incorporated community feedback into 2nd read.

5. **Reviewed AE Policy**: Heard concerns from several parents as to some of the language in the policy and the confusion around what this policy covers and doesn't cover. Attempts were made to clarify the intention of this policy. It was made clear that many of the concerns were based on a 2019 Peer Leading program and the interpretation of what happened in it. Committee members attempted to explain the distinction between the peer-leading-program from this policy. It was obvious that there was a broad level of confusion as to what the policy is and isn't hoping to do, and our committee will work on some language revisions to help clarify the policy. Also heard from several people in favor of this policy. For the best recount of this conversation, please view the recording of this please watch video (hyperlink).

6. **Discussed next steps:** IDEA training 7/21 and 8/25. Upcoming full sc meetings when the policy will be discussed 6/23 and 7/14. This may be the last subcommittee for the school year based on our next full sc meeting.

7. **Meeting Adjourned at 3:56** motion made by Bill, 2nd by Bonnie