



Diversity Committee

November 7, 2023

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mason City Hall - Maple Room

Present: Rick Brooks, Mary Hilker, Amy Lark, Erinna Toodzio, Kimberly Clark, Emma Doty, Courtney Miller, Julie Grech-Kramer, Ted Berryhill, Randy Barton, Ethan Felsing, Krista Sherman, Jan Alleman, and Summer Issawi

Not Available: Gary Kinzer, Craig Kueffner, Lance Delbridge, Holly Dornbush, Riley Ngubeni, Shana Barnum, Ethan McCallum, and Rachel Foster

Minutes

Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittees met as small groups to work on planning and action steps for their current projects. Transitioned to General Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

General Meeting Welcome - Committee Chair

Mary Hilker welcomed the group to the general meeting portion of the evening. Some members had expressed a need for more people. How can we get more people involved in projects?

Reports/Discussion

Randy Barton reported on the October 23rd professional development on trauma-informed practices. Dr. Stephanie Grant came in and worked with our staff. The PD was split between elementary and secondary sessions. She shared resources for future work as well.

Mr. Barton shared information about the therapy dog project spearheaded by Craig Kueffner. The plan is to start with the two largest buildings, Mason High School and Mason Middle School. The goal is to eventually have at least one facility/therapy dog in every building. The organization the district is working with, Canines for Change, has two dogs that are almost ready for placement. The next step is the application process for handlers.

Committee Chair

Mary led the group through an initial discussion of the perception survey data they were assigned to review at the October meeting. Mary put the perception survey data on the screen and asked members to report on the pages they were responsible for reading.

The group noted differences in responses between male/female, elementary/secondary, different grades, different races, etc.

Equity Projects Update

Northville Schools began this project with their high school and grew from there. Northville High School started with Special Olympics games taking place during varsity basketball games. The idea is you use something people wholeheartedly get behind and include other groups. Captivate the audience and broaden the umbrella of inclusion.

It was suggested that we begin with the high school or both secondary buildings and grow. Ted Berryhill suggested having a meeting with several DEI members and the MPS executive team to talk about ideas, plans, and approval.

In order to gain more information about the Northville project, the committee requested a presentation from Northville. Ted has a contact that he will reach out to.

There is an opportunity to receive a grant from Project Unified for this project. The district currently has Project Unified clubs at MMS and MHS. Other groups that could assist in the implementation of this project are student government, NJHS, NHS, SAGA, etc.

It was pointed out that last year the committee's focus was on equity. The year prior was diversity. It is appropriate that the committee focuses on inclusion, year.

Adjournment - 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: December 5, 2023
Details: 5:30pm, Maple Room (Mason City Hall)