

DEER PARK UFSD – BOARD OF EDUCATION
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 16, 2024

MEETING COMMENCED AT 7:01 PM

ATTENDANCE:

1. Kristine Rosales, Committee Co - Chair
2. Jerry Jean-Pierre, Committee Co - Chair
3. Danielle Sheridan
4. Jeanne Kozlowsky
5. Dr. Elaina Levey
6. Aleisha Forbes
7. Teri Viera
8. Heather Cirola
9. Maria Cacoperdo
10. Reshma Neebar

MEETING AGENDA:

1. INTRODUCTIONS & GREETINGS
2. DISCUSS DEI ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY
3. BRAINSTORMING ON DEI VENTS – CELEBRATING WOMENS HISTORY MONTH & MLK DAY

DIVERSITY EVENTS IN THE SCHOOLS

1. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- a. Danielle Sheridan
 - i. All schools are celebrating “Holidays around the World” through different read-aloud, arts & crafts, and music to celebrate different cultures
 - ii. Art Projects completed to celebrate Diwali & EID
 - iii. Various Christmas and Hanukah celebration ongoing this month
 - iv. JFK – Door Decorations to represent countries of origin of many student families. Teachers have incorporated projects to help in the decorations including group projects
 - v. JFK Scavenger Hunt to discover the different countries and get “Passport” stamps” representing all the countries visited.
 - vi. Various Books introduced to the Elementary Schools to represent Diverse characters
 - vii. Schools incorporating 1 night as “Family Connection” Night to encourage student to have open dialogues with their families. No homework assignments on those nights

- b. Heather Cirola / Maria Cacoperdo
 - i. Celebrating Holidays around the world in their classrooms
 - ii. “STAR STUDENT” - TA’s are helping to celebrate the student with a Poster, sharing information about the student’s family.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- a. Elaina Levey
 - i. WORLD MAP – The Cultural Diversity Club at Frost sent out surveys to all staff and students to learn of their ancestry. Use the information to add push pins to represent the various countries where staff and students came from. Map is prominently displayed in the front hallway at Frost.
 - ii. JUNION MSA Club is formed – Club was finally formed and first meeting was attended by 45 students. Executive Board has a schedule of activities and events for the coming year. Dr. Levey, Ms. Ramos, and Ms. Michaels will serve a Club Advisors on a rotational basis.
- b. Jeanne Kozlowsky
 - i. MSA (Muslim Student Association) – rescheduled their event to January 2025; Frost MSA student plan to attend. Ms. Bjornensen is helping with outreach to other clubs and organizations in the schools.
 - ii. First Advisory Board Meeting – Advisory Board was re-started by Jill Perry-Essing which brings community members to help guide students with career choices. Several women members would like to engage our committee for upcoming Women’s event
 - iii. Holiday Concerts continue this week on Wednesday & Thursday
- c. Aleshia Forbes
 - i. BSU & the Cultural Food Club plan to have a Holiday Celebration this week
 - ii. HBCU College Fair will take place in Brentwood in the coming months. Ms. Forbes will work Dr Panone to arrange transportation, similar to last year.
 - iii. MLK Day of Service – Working with Mr Noblett on plans

3. COMMUNITY

- a. Reshma Neebar – Question - Similar to the diverse book offerings in the primary schools, is this being done in the secondary schools?
- b. Tiera Viera & Kris Rosale responded;
 - i. Secondary libraries have extensive books on diverse authors and characters; this is an ongoing work done with the librarians in the 2 schools
 - ii. Big push to integrate all libraries at all schools
 - iii. Ashley Rosenberg pushing more books with cultural content

PLANNING FOR CULTURAL EVENTS

1. **MLK EVENT** - “WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES” – Concept around using the MLK Day to encourage student to walk in honor of Dr. King. Participants would walk a mile on the HS track while listening to the “I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH.” Live stream?

2. **WOMENS EVENT**

- a. In-Person event at the DPHS
- b. Working on dates - Jeanne Kozlowsky will work with HS Administration and Meg Jacobs to determine a date (week of Mark 17-21)
- c. Auditorium Main Event and additional speakers in classrooms, similar to Multicultural Day
- d. Collecting names of women speakers willing to speak as well as moderators (Honor Society Members??) – Shared document to be created
- e. Honor Society Members will help with day-of logistics for “volunteer” hours

MEETING ENDED AT 7:51 PM