

## **Minutes of the Culture and Climate Committee Meeting**

Date: 10/30/23

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Virtual

### **Participants:**

Brian Fleischer (Board Member)

Maggie Dock (District Mental Health/Anti Bullying Coordinator)

Crystal Hopkins (Board Member)

Maisel Rodriguez Vars (MFEE)

Dory Hack (MFEE)

Monk Inyang (Committee Chair)

### **Agenda Item 1: District Mental Health Team Update**

- It was shared that a Quarterly SEL (Social Emotional Learning) & Mental Health Newsletter is in the works, aiming to reach both parents and students. Further details will be provided as they become available.
- The Parent Academy is planning to offer SEL workshops. Two sessions have been scheduled:
  - "Recognizing and Addressing Children's Emotions & Building a Resilience Toolkit" on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00pm at Quantum Edgemont ES. Participants are encouraged to RSVP, and a survey will be distributed to gauge parent interest and guide planning.
  - "Supporting Children Coping with Loss," offered both online on Tuesday, January 9, and in person on Tuesday, January 23 at 7pm. A Google survey will be shared for RSVPs.

### **Agenda Item 2: HIB Self-Assessment Grading and Related Topics**

- The discussion covered the district's progress towards the goals set for the 22-23 school year, highlighted achievements from various schools, and identified focus areas for the upcoming 23-24 school year.
- HIBster Training was mentioned, highlighting past workshops on October 19 and 20, and a follow-up planned for the November 7 Professional Development day.
- A specific HIB Training for Coordinators and Administrators with Dave Nash is scheduled for November 21st.
- The DREAMS program's Climate Survey was discussed, starting with the Middle School and potentially expanding district wide.

- Concerning HIB Reports, Mrs. Dock shared her review of other district's HIB reports, noting that they do not include summaries. She proposed adopting a similar format for Montclair to ensure privacy for families when reports are submitted for public vote.

### **Agenda Item 3: MFEE Presentation on School Registration Difficulties**

- Dory Hack and Maisel Rodriguez Vars from MFEE addressed the committee, highlighting the challenges families face when enrolling in Montclair schools, especially non-English speakers, and those without reliable internet access.
- They suggested reintroducing paper registration options and providing specific times for in-person registration assistance.
- They called for clearer registration requirements for unhoused families to ensure equitable processes.
- They recommended that notary services be offered at the Central Office to prevent families from seeking paid services elsewhere.
- They advocated for wider use of the Paragon system for translation assistance for district staff aiding families during registration.
- They proposed integrating the free and reduced lunch application process with school registration to streamline the procedure.

### **Next Steps and Action Items:**

- Further details on the Quarterly SEL & Mental Health Newsletter will be distributed as they become available.
- Beginning the planning of 2023-2024 Culture & Climate goals
- Follow up on the suggestions and issues raised by MFEE regarding school registration difficulties.