

Wooster City Schools
Diversity Task Force
Steering Committee Meeting
2-18-2021
1:00pm
NOTES
Zoom Meeting

Present: Steve Shapiro, Yvonne Williams, Michael Tefs, and Cameron Maneese

1. **Review January 26 Meeting Process** – The committee felt the meeting went well. Discussion took place regarding how the meeting is accessed by the public and what technology will be in place for the July 27, 2021 Diversity Task Force Annual Meeting. Tefs indicated that this will be a YouTube meeting, not unlike how the Board of Education holds its meetings. Only members of the DTF will be able to interact; the public will be able to view the meeting. This will be different from the Zoom meeting of January 26th.
2. **DTF Replacements**
 - a. College of Wooster Representative – Williams will contact College of Wooster president Sarah Bolton regarding College of Wooster representation on the DTF. She will also reach out to Shadra Smith and Kayla Campbell of the College.
 - b. WCSD Certified Staff – Tefs reported that Lexi Pacheco, a 2nd teacher at Cornerstone Elementary School will be on the DTF.
3. **Review New Deliverables**
 - Formal implicit bias training – Tefs reported that the Kirwan Institute will begin “Train the Trainer” workshops in April and May of this year. The goal is to train 30 faculty / staff who will cover all the buildings (four elementary buildings, one middle school and one high school) across the grades (Pre-school, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12). These trainers will then train 75 staff every year. Tefs indicated that there is plenty of interest. For more information we were urged to go to the Kirwan website. <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/>
 - Restorative Justice - Tefs recommended that WCSD restorative justice practices be shared at the July 27 annual DTF meeting. Shapiro asked if we could also look at discipline data during this part of the meeting, being especially cognizant of bullying behavior. Tefs stressed that when there is a concern for the safety of a student and of others, there is an intervention that includes mental health supports. The WCSD is trauma-informed when looking at the issues behind a student’s behavior. He also indicated that there is limited statewide information about discipline data across school districts and hoped we would look at data over-time, and not just a snapshot of numbers. He will send out discipline data to the Steering committee.

4. **Recruitment 2021** – Tefs reported that compared with 2020-21, there will be more openings to be filled for 2021-22 academic year. At this time, it appears that there may be more classified positions available than certified teacher positions, but that they should know more by the end of February. He asked that Maneese email Nancy Johnson of HR, copying him, at the beginning of March to ascertain how many positions there will be. He stressed that recruitment of diverse candidates will be very important to track in the months to come.

5. **Social Emotional Learning / Leader in Me** – Tefs reminded the Steering Committee that WCSD was committed to The Leader in Me for the Elementary and Middle schools. Wooster High School staff spent two years looking at options for their students and in the end selected the high school version of Leader in Me. A research-based, social emotional curriculum has not been implemented as of today and is currently on hold. It was noted that the high school does implement “Red Flags” mental health / suicide identification as an example of the supports in place.

6. **One Book / Reading Under the Lights** – Tefs indicated that United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties is meeting with WCSD and looking at an event in August (it had previously been in May). The Reading Under the Lights committee is in the process of selecting a school age common read text now.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 1:00pm
Full DTF meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 Annual Report @ 5:30pm

Adjourned at 2:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Maneese