BRENT ELEMENTARY
Diversity Working Group (DWG)
March 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met on 3/20/19 in the Brent library. Brent Elementary is located at 301 North Carolina Ave. SE, Washington DC. The meeting began at 6:30pm.

Meeting Participants: Jon Berg, Lindsay Bernard, Piper Campbell, Melinda Copeland, Danielle Drissel, Sara Ewbank, Dayon Hairston, Hyon Herbert, Jasmine Leary, Bettina Schwebe, and Ashli Wilson

1. Feedback on Black History Month/living wax museum: Students who participated enjoyed it and learned something. Length of time for students experiencing it (10 minutes) was good. Length of time for presenters (1.5 hours) was perhaps too long/exhausting. The classes who had participants plus book buddies plus kids who would otherwise have been with Ms. Bettina participated.
   a. Recommendations for next year: One class at a time, short cycling, maybe pair or group the students going through. Consider having two sets of presenters and/or programming in a break. The general sense of the group was that we got out of it what we wanted; it was interesting to see information gained and transferred. If twice as many kids, may need parent volunteers. Consider possibly having some of the “statues” travel to the younger kid classrooms.

2. Women’s History Month: Lucy Hynes drafted a reading spotlight for TuesNews. We are currently circulating coloring sheets of Visionary Women – Advocates for Peace and Nonviolence coloring sheets. Coloring sheet for Rigaberta Menchu went out with the Tues News. Ms. Bettina will make other coloring sheets available in the Brent Library.
   Opportunity: Send any coloring sheet recommendations to Danielle Drissel at Danielle@websterious.com

3. DWG Budget: The proposed 2019-2020 budget (document dated 3/20) was reviewed, including proposed spend for Rising Tides. Next year DWG budget will include funding for Inclusive Schools Week. Budget proposal to be submitted to Principal Lycknell in early April.

4. Auction: Thanks to Piper Campbell, this year DWG donated a puzzle to the auction.
   Recommendation: Collect the “we are all unique” art work from Inclusive Schools Week to create an art book to be auctioned in future years.

5. Rising Tides: Mr. Hyon described the current program. There are 10-11 kids signed up for the program and consistently 9-10 participate. Spring semester is structured around a shared text and will involve a culminating project. Mr. Hyon may request bulletin board for posters. DWG developed surveys for students and separately to parents, including input as to RT’s status as an affinity group. Initial survey results indicate Coach H is extremely popular with the kids and the parents are aware of that high regard. RT spending requests for the spring session include supplies and t-shirts.

6. Parent Listening Sessions: The first round of parent listening sessions occurred at Bolling AFB. Approximately ½ of the Bolling families were represented in the two sessions. The next group will be families who started in Brent this year in 2nd-5th grade. Cumulatively, the goals for this year are to conduct three sets of parent listening sessions covering approximately 10% of the total Brent population.
   Opportunity: Another training session for listening session facilitators will be offered the first week of April. Email Danielle Drissel if interested.

7. Affinity Survey: Group reviewed and commented on a draft all-family survey to engage people around what they’re interested in celebrating in 2019-20. Survey to be distributed in connection with registration process.
8. Upcoming events
   Family Funday (4/7): DWG obtained 30 tickets for entry to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Sunday 4/7 at 10 am. Parent/chaperone must accompany students. Departure will be from Brent.
   
   *Opportunity:* Reserve tickets for your family by emailing Danielle Drissel at Danielle@websterious.com
   
   Month of the Military Child (April): Marine Barracks field trip on Friday 4/26 for some classes; logistics to be discussed. Option for a bulletin board.
   
   Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May): Piper Campbell volunteered to explore options for a community event. Reading Spotlight to be drafted for TuesNews. Engaging with the Smithsonian was discussed for future years.

9. Shared Reading: Ms. Ewbank facilitated a robust discussion of *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Next meeting date: Thursday, April 25, 2019

The meeting concluded at 8:15 pm.