

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

The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met on 1/16/19 in the Brent Elementary library. Brent Elementary is located at 301 North Carolina Ave SE, Washington DC. The meeting began at 6:35pm.

Meeting Participants: Piper Campbell, Melinda Copeland, Danielle Drissel, Sara Ewbank, Dayon Hairston, Candace Hines, Lucy Hynes, Jasmine Leary, Bettina Schewe & Adi Segal.

Agenda

1. Discussion topic- Defining Diversity: How do we talk about diversity as a group? Personally?
  - Perspectives on the meaning of diversity were discussed, including Diversity as anything that makes a person different and brings a different lens to the table; Diversity as what makes us special, unique; and Diversity as a tool to recognize the differences and variability among people.
  - The group also discussed the value of diversity. Multitude of perspectives are enriching and open your mind. Diversity help us to be inclusive, invites sharing and inquiry, and deepens connections.
2. Feedback on recent DWG Events
  - International Night: Lots of positive feedback from parents during and after the event.
    - o Fashion Show/performances had great representation, were respectful, and good timing. Next year consider how to include families who don't pre-register.
    - o Food was great and varied. Consider asking that food come labeled with the food names and ingredients, especially potential allergens. Also consider how to limit left-overs and request contributors bring home extras and help with cleanup.
    - o Use of 1<sup>st</sup> floor was great. More signage could improve the flow of people.
    - o Other points for next year: perhaps ½ hour shorter overall. Passports need more coordination and fresher ink. Next year's advertising can use photos from this year. Staff burden was very high; need more volunteer support for cleanup.
  - MLK Parade Poster Party: Good feedback and positive experience for participants.
    - o 18 students participated. Mr. Berg facilitated. Staggered arrival between 3:15 and 3:40.
    - o Participation policy for unaccompanied students could be clarified, perhaps using a Permission click format, and parents can be asked to lend more support, such as providing snacks and helping other students.
3. Report on Listening Session Collaboration
  - The parent leadership organizations (LSAT, PTA, DWG and SIT) plan to conduct parent listening sessions, modelled after student listening sessions that started last year. We will pilot the effort with military families on base at Bolling.
  - DWG members are asked to help with this effort. Danielle and Adi trained to be listening session facilitators. Others expressed support for this parent outreach and willingness to help.
    - o *Email Danielle if you are interested in getting trained to lead listening sessions.*
4. Current Focus: Black History Month
  - Bulletin Board: Ms. Copeland and Ms. Santos working on a 4-section board, with different grade levels for each section. Goal is for display by the first week of February.
  - Performance: Discovery Theater will have two performances in school on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - In-school activity: Older students will be invited to develop displays for a Wax Museum of Inventors/Adventurers to happen towards the end of February.
  - Readings: Selection of all-school reading and TuesNews Reading Spotlight entries is underway.
  - Out-of-school activity: NHAAMC group tickets for a Saturday outing will be pursued once government shutdown ends.
    - o *Email Danielle or Ms. Hairston with addition BHM suggestions or to volunteer.*

5. Upcoming DWG Events

- **CommUNITY Family Dance (2/8)**. Event will be 6:30-8. Mr. Krohn identified a candidate for DJ who can provide lights and sound system. Discussion of crafts, decorations and options for a photo booth. Volunteers will be key, especially for keeping the event exclusively in the multi-purpose room and to reduce staff burden for cleanup. Limited food budget will be used to buy chicken tenders. Supplement with potluck donations.
  - o *Google doc for parent volunteers.*
- **I Am Jazz Reading (2/28)** Brent to participate in national reading sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and the National Education Association.

**Next meeting date: Thursday, February 28, 2019**

The meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.