The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met on 11/15/18 in a Brent Elementary classroom. Brent Elementary is located at 301 North Carolina Ave SE, Washington DC. The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Participants: Jon Berg, Melinda Copeland, Danielle Drissel, Sara Ewbank, Dayon Hairston, Candace Hines, Machee Kelly, Norah Lycknell, Josie Malone, Sharon Santos & Bettina Schewe.

Agenda

1. Giving Thanks and Growing Community
   - Introductions by all participants and reflection.
   - Thanks include: Welcome and support for new families; DWG offers insights into community and enables connections among families and between families and staff; community has growth mindset, shows flexibility, willingness to put in elbow grease and work together; new efforts to support families in need.
   - Growth Opportunities include: More information in spring and summer for navigating new community; more outreach to underrepresented families; dialogue about building bridges within the Brent community; achieving continuity by integrating successful events into school calendar.

2. Feedback on Recent DWG Events
   - Indigenous Peoples Month: Add an activity (e.g. Hopi Tribal Festival); consider in-school presentation in coordination with National Museum of the American Indian; continued partnership with 4th grade in future years.
   - Veterans’ Day: Bulletin board generating discussion, pride and more feedback than any other display in 2018; Display is growing as more families see board and add their veterans; Continue momentum with the month of the military child in April.
   - Improving Outreach: Activities to highlight particular voices would be easier with a database with demographic information. Options to solicit information include adding demographic questions to upcoming school survey and flyer included with enrollment packets.

3. Reports on School-Based Initiatives
   - Brent Leadership Meeting: Leadership of DWG, SIT, LSAT & PTA meet with Principal Lycknell and AP Ewbank. Will be periodic meetings to promote collaboration. Opportunities for DWG to partner with LSAT on listening sessions, school survey and school’s history.
   - Rising Tides Update from Ms. Ewbank: First RT meeting was in November. Primarily 3d grade boys who self-identified as belonging. 5th grade also represented. Attendance growing. Discussion of supplementing paper invitations with email
and/or Permission Click. Invite Imagine Greater to next meeting to discuss opportunities for DWG/RT partnership.

4. Future DWG Activities
   - Adoption Month (November): Finalize reading spotlight for TuesNews; use DWG budget to add titles to Brent Library; discussed possible inclusion of titles discussing foster families.
   - Brent Holiday Sale (11/30-12/2): Opportunity to staff the Used Uniform Table.
     - Email Danielle or Kelly Vielmo to volunteer.
   - Human Rights Day (12/7): Options to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights; flyer for TuesNews with abridged UDHR; share texts from 2d grade classes; option for 4th grade to use UDHR for all-school meeting on club day.
   - Inclusive Schools Week (12/3-7): Welcome Wednesday sponsored by DWG; Ms. Santos & Mr. Berg coordinating flyers for each student to return a self-portrait, using ideas from “My Friend Is As Sharp as a Pencil” by Hanoch Piven; option to make books of self-portraits as Gala auction items.
   - International Night (1/11): Mr. Krohn coordinating; Committee facilitating fashion show & flag making.
     - Email Danielle or Mr. Krohn to volunteer.
   - Options for next year include making a year-end culminating event and/or reframing as multi-cultural/diversity festival with all are welcome theme and sharing of family collages and family songs.
   - MLK March (1/21): Poster/banner making party at school using model from Pride Parade; option for RT to host after school the week beforehand.
     - Option for next year of starting a poster-party club.
   - Black History Month (February): Suggested themes include Hair, Fabrics, Motown, Migration, Afro-futurism; option for RT to select theme; option to participate in Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools 2/4-8; Ms. Hairston coordinating in-school performances; Unity Dance (2/8) may include artifacts, crafts and/or musical suggestions; Committee to coordinate activities.
     - Email Danielle, Ms. Copeland or Ms. Hairston to volunteer.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13, 2018
   - Agenda will include planning for upcoming events and discussion of two articles:
     1) “How Well-Intentioned White Families Can Perpetuate Racism” by Joe Pinsker
     2) “White parents teach their children to be colorblind. Here’s why that’s bad for everyone.” by Megan Underhill.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m. ET.