

BRENT ELEMENTARY  
Diversity Working Group (DWG)  
November 2018 Meeting Minutes

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.
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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup> grade also represented. Attendance growing. Discussion of supplementing paper invitations with email

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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 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights; flyer for TuesNews with abridged UDHR; share texts from 2d grade classes; option for 4<sup>th</sup> 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.