

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

The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met on 10/18/18 in the Brent Elementary library. Brent Elementary is located at 301 North Carolina Ave SE, Washington DC. The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Participants: Lindsay Bernard, Melinda Copeland, Denise Diggs, Danielle Drissel, Sara Ewbank, Carol Harlow, Candace Hines, Lucy Hynes, Joshua Krohn, Sharon Santos, Bettina Schewe, Adi Segal & Tarinna Terrell.

1. Discussion: How welcome did you feel in the Brent Community over the first 6 weeks of the school year?
  - a. On scale of 1-10, participants ranked sense of welcome at 5-9. Strength was teachers creating sense of community. Opportunities for growth in greater communication prior to the start of the year and sense of community among teachers.
2. Feedback on recent DWG activities
  - a. Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month: Positive response to book selections in reading spotlight. Saturday outing to Portrait Gallery event offered great music, poetry and crafts for the few Brent families who attended. Interactive bulletin board generated great discussions, was affirming for student contributors and will be used as a model for future boards.
  - b. Building Communities in Diverse Schools City-wide Event: Teaching for Change matrix on achieving inclusivity is good resource for DWG, Brent PTA and others; discussion sparked interest in removing financial barriers to participation in Brent events, such as Gala and Family Picnic and examining other potential barriers to engagement, such as transportation, time, and location of events.
3. Update on Rising Tides
  - a. Decision to proceed with affinity group model, discussing the experience for students of color at Brent.
  - b. Imagine Greater will issue invitations to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and students who previously participated. On course to start 8-week session at end of October.
  - c. Will have mid-session update at the next DWG meeting
4. Focus for November
  - a. Indigenous People's Month (November): large bulletin board and selections in reading spotlight will include content from current 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Potential all school shared reading texts: Encounter by Jane Yolen and What's My Superpower by Aviaq Johnson. Option for DWG weekend outing.
  - b. Veterans' Day (November 11): Interactive bulletin board recognizing service members in the Brent community modelled after Hispanic-Latinx Heritage board. Potential for American Legion event commemorating of WWI and/or Bring your service member to school day.
  - c. November is also Adoption Month; Adoption Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
  - d. Thanksgiving Day is the annual Turkey Trot to support So Others Might Eat.
  - e. Support for launch of the Uniform Program organized by Kelly Vielmo and Carol Harlow to recycle used uniforms and make uniforms more accessible to all families at Brent.
5. Future Projects: Calendar of Activity
  - a. December: UN Human Rights Day is December 10<sup>th</sup>
  - b. January: International Night is tentatively Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krohn offered to coordinate. Need to start planning now, and look at possible food sponsors, catering, and budget. MLK March is Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. February: African- American History Month. Unity Dance is Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. March: Women's History Month
  - e. April: Emancipation Day and Military Child Month
  - f. May: Asian and Pacific Island Heritage Month
  - g. June: Pride Parade. Brent Buddy recruitment for following year. Summer reading list to incorporate the year's cultural heritage book lists, as well as others.

**Next meeting date: November 15, 2018.**

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m. ET.