

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

The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met on 9/19/18 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, Denise Diggs, Danielle Drissel, Sara Ewbank, Hyon Herbert, Candace Hines, Lucy Hynes, Jasmine Leary, Norah Lycknell, Abby Maslin, Adam Matuszeski, Sharon Santos, Bettina Schewe & Adi Segal.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - Welcome by DWG Board: Danielle Drissel, Adi Segal & Ms. Copeland
  - Introductions by all participants. Common theme: joined DWG to help ensure everyone's voice is heard
  - Overview of last year's DWG activities: Pride Parade, MLK March, Unity Dance, Asian and Pacific Islander Month reading list, Book Clubs for Adults, African American History Month bulletin board
2. DWG Activities to Start the Year Focused on Welcome and Inclusion of Families New to Brent
  - Welcome Bulletin Board in the many languages of Brent
  - Brent Buddies pairing 12 returning families with families new to Brent, additional volunteers can join by emailing Danielle Drissel
  - Brent Buddy Bingo ice-breaker activity planned for 1pm at the Brent Family Picnic
3. Rising Tides Evolution
  - Hyon Herbert & Sara Ewbank described the program's history with focus on academic enrichment
  - Norah Lycknell discussed organic student-lead shift towards focus on socio-emotional support rather than academics; noted student survey data evidencing gaps in sense of belonging associated with race, gender, ELL, and income
  - Open discussion of options Rising Tides this school year
    - Estimated participation around 2 dozen students
    - Seven student participants from last year are at Brent now (Grades 3-5<sup>th</sup>)
    - Program will start in October
    - Could Rising Tides be an Affinity Group? What would this look like and who would it be for?
    - Who is invited into Rising Tides, and how? Alternatives: open group, applications?
    - Options for increased involvement by teen mentors
4. Brent Celebrates Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15)
  - Bulletin Board to be created by Ms. Santos, Ms. Copeland and Adam Matuszeski
  - Danielle Drissel and Ms. Schewe to draft Reading Spotlight for TuesNews
  - DWG trip to the Nuestra Ciudad event at the National Portrait Gallery on Saturday, September 29 11:30-3
  - Publicize DWG trip and DCPS list of other family cultural events around town in TuesNews
5. Looking Ahead
  - Discussion of other ways to promote diversity and cultural heritage:
    - All-school shared reading experiences
    - Book clubs for Adults
    - International Night
    - Bulletin Boards, possibility to use a template
    - Recurring section in TuesNews publicizing with family activities around town
  - **Next Meeting: Thursday, October 18**

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