

# Reports

**Chariho Regional School District**

Anti-Racism Task Force  
Minutes of February 3, 2021  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** (Quorum = 6) *Maija Hill, endawnis Spears, Darthula Mathews, Dan Fitzgerald, Katie Kirakosian, Joseph Lopes, Joseph Reddish, Heidi Fee, Jess Avizinis, Lisa Macaruso, Gina Picard, Guests: Polly Hopkins, Jane Daly, Sabrina Rubenstein, Sandra Laub, Luca Berry, Caleb Grant, Robert Wild, Gerry Auth, Thea Brennan, Anna LaCroix,*

**I. Call to Order** – Maija Hill (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve 2/3 minutes by Joe Reddish and seconded by Dan Fitzgerald. Vote- Aye- Unanimous

**III. Presentation of Curriculum Work (looking at High School Students' Criminal Justice and Health Career Curriculum)** – Mr. Gerry Auth/Lt. Wilde provided an overview of career and tech institute's four-year programs enlisting students from all over RI. Sabrina Rubenstein attended the meeting to speak to her experience in a 4-year program in which she is still enrolled. The two programs in criminal justice are national, award-winning programs adopted from Roger Williams University. Lt. Wild reported that the programs cover all career fields in criminal justice not just becoming police officers, e.g., attorneys, forensic science, etc. and that civics are taught from 9<sup>th</sup> grade up. Questions were raised related to details about these programs, their demographics, their content, the connectivity between anti-racism work and see-something-say-something reported. Gerry Auth reported that he would get accurate demographic data to share with the Task Force and that they were interested in the Task Force's recommendations for curriculum and programming. Questions were also raised regarding the health career programs and how they apply to the BIPOC Community. Gerry Auth reported that cultural aspects are incorporated in the curriculum.

**IV. Discussion of the Role of the Task Force as it Relates to Current Events**

The task force discussed connecting current events to classroom discussion and curriculum and making recommendations accordingly for example police brutality.

A suggestion was made to incorporate community education about these topics as well. As well as including civics within all the curriculum of all disciplines but not on the shoulders of BIPOC students and parents.

Darthula Mathews makes a motion to have a standing agenda item to talk about current events and Joe Reddish seconds. Unanimous approval.

**V. Discussion on the Structure of the Task Force's Report to the School Committee**

Policy Subcommittee has put report items into Tier 1, 2 and 3 goals. Lisa Macaruso can help with formatting and scheduling the meeting with the School Committee. It was suggested that one subcommittee at a time report in tiers like the Policy subcommittee. Then someone from the School Committee could suggest a specific conversation with the public etc. Best practice mid-year, end-year update and then at end of year formal renewal for the continuation.

Ultimately it was decided that this model will be followed and that the Policy subcommittee would present a progress report to the School Committee on March 3, Practices subcommittee would present on March 23 and Curriculum subcommittee will present a progress report on April 13.

**VI. School Committee Liaison Report**

Joe Reddish was recognized for his recent community service award at the recent MLK celebration. The High school's diversity book club-advised by Nicole Leeks is reading "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas and while the discussions are exactly what the Anti-Racism Task Force would hope for, it has not been well-attended most likely because there is not enough awareness that it exists. The next book will be "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian." And "The Concrete Rose"

signed copies were all purchased for the students with a live book talk with the author Angie Thomas. A request was made to promote the diversity book club. It was asked if the Anti-Racism Task Force could include as part of their recommendation, funding for this work e.g., buying books for students so they'll participate in these things. Community2000.org could also probably provide funding as well as community reads like "American Sunrise" and "Stamped from the Beginning" which is this year's read across Rhode Island book.

## **VII. Subcommittee Reports**

Policy: Tier 1: Recommend creation of a diversity statement in school handbook for guide for district policies and inclusion of visual representation of this. Morning announcement should include mission of schools. An anti-discrimination policy should be created that goes out to parents as well for accountability to parents/community.

Tier 2: Recommend anti-racism lens for Chariho handbook with flow chart for how to respond to issue or challenge. Onboarding for students, staff, caregivers etc. that ties in the handbook and commitment to mission.

Tier 3: Create policy mandating ongoing professional development in D, E & I via experiences for teachers offsite e.g., institute of non-violence, Met School, Center for Reconciliation, external trainers. Create more safe spaces e.g., Restore.

Practices Sub Committee: Looked at practices for hiring, indigenous liaison, pledge, external curriculum etc. Hiring practices--how many staff identify as PoC and what is the gap between the policy and the actual practice? How do we recruit more diverse colleagues and we review how that might look. Discipline--how is bullying being documented and addressed start to finish, experiences with guidance counselors (are they well-versed in a range of perspectives?)

Curriculum: Tier 1: Creation of a statement tied to mission/vision of Chariho that describing intent to better the education of all students via anti-racism/decolonization lens.

Tier 2: Perform gap assessment between curriculum as it stands and what needs intervention--should involve BIPOC people in developing the evaluation as well as students to look at things from all different perspectives of equity.

Tier 3: Creation of resource center that has resources educators can use immediately--apply it to the course right now. For teachers of all disciplines--materials e.g., TEK, decolonizing physical health, and languages. Should link community focus as well.

Chariho-specific curriculum centering anti-racism and decolonization scaffolded from pre-k through 12. Localized histories and contemporary figures Tarzan Brown, tribal sovereignty cases, etc. coupled with ongoing performance expectations and metrics as well as expectation that our timelines are long-term we'll be making investments that we will not see come to fruition but are still worthwhile.

## **VI. Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Mark Gardner, asked if Social Studies and history curriculum could be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Joe Reddish plans to invite group "Interact" to the meeting

Suggest discussing making meetings better accessible for public

## **VII. Next Meeting Due Date**

March 3rd 7:00pm

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Joe motion to adjourn Heidi second unanimous 9:18pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Avizinis  
Clerk

## **Chariho Regional School District**

Health and Wellness Subcommittee

Minutes of December 8, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

**DRAFT**

**Present:** (Quorum = 7) Gina Picard, Cheryl Caro, Leigh Rainey, Sharon Martin, Karin Wetherill, Cindy Buxton, Dr. Lisa Menard-Manlove, Kristin Haxton, Catherine Moffitt

**I. Call to Order** – Gina Picard called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2020** – Motion made by Kristin Haxton seconded by Cheryl Caro. In favor: Unanimous.

**III. Report from Food Service Director**– Tasting at Richmond with Butternut Squash soup. Richmond is doing a December challenge around nutrition. The challenge is a monthly health and wellness focus. Richmond will keep track of their servings of vegetables by the team. All faculty and staff are participating.

We served 40 students bulk meals over Thanksgiving for 5 days. This will be offered again for Winter Break. We will give out meals on 12/23 9 am-10:30 am. Leigh will message principals to determine the families who need the service.

**IV. Review Goals for 2020-2021–**

1. Student voice and increase parent participation on the committee. A student application was drafted and discussed. We also discussed how students participate i.e taste tests, focus groups. It was discussed to have focus topics and join the meeting to provide input and feedback. Next meeting we will ask for feedback on the goals and gather parent and student input

2. Focus on Mental Health for students, staff, and families and bringing Resources to the forefront.

3 Continue to enhance opportunities for physical activities and movement breaks.

The committee discussed pursuing opportunities to expand/create school gardens and school menus.

**V. Review of Student Application** - Need a commitment and clearly state the time commitment and the expectations and participation

**VI. Adjourn** – Motion made by Kristin Haxton, seconded by Sharon Martin, to adjourn at 4:49 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina M Picard  
Superintendent