

Hopkins Public Schools
Diversity Committee Meeting Notes
April 29, 2019

Present: Bill DeGood, Jenni DeGood, Katherine Dana, Ken Szczepanski, Scott VanBonn, Scott Stockwell, Ed Pigeon, Gary Wood, Amy Mielke, Jannan Cotto

Positive Points to Share –

- Jenni gave a shout out to Ms. Dana for her handling of an incident regarding a film called *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.
- Ms. Dana commented on how her students embraced the Native American artwork of one of her students.

Hopkins Elementary Report - attached

Sycamore Elementary Report - attached

Hopkins Middle School Report - attached

Hopkins High School Report – attached

Community Update –

- Ed commented on the tribe's support for the Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland, including input on curriculum.
- Jannan has been meeting with Hopkins staff about the services and support available to tribal citizens and the general public.
- Jenni mentioned that the Make Hopkins Great Again hats sold by the economics class were inappropriate and sent a negative message to some.
- Bill mentioned that the Parents of Colorful Kids were concerned that the school has turned away free support from organizations.

Other

- Data – HS Survey – Gary went over the basic questions and a summary of the results. A deeper analysis will be coming.
- Jenni questioned Ken about providing training for our students that focuses on race.

Upcoming Meetings

- TBD - Fall

Hopkins Elementary
Diversity Committee Update
April 29, 2019

- **HES Behavioral Expectations (VIKES)** Very Respectful, Including Everyone, Keeping it Together, Excited about learning and Staying Safe. (Weekly drawings to reward students)

- **TEAM Programs through MSP** – “Feeling safe/secure”, “Don’t be a Bully, Be a Friend”, and “Being a Good Friend/Classmate” (Trooper Summerhays is our school liaison)
Our 5th graders will once again participate in a Michigan STEP program (Student Tools for Emergency Planning).

- **Molly Khang – Classroom Lessons with Second Step curriculum.** She is getting into every classroom at least one time each month.

- **Alan Kazam –“Southwest Michigan’s Favorite Magician”** presented to the students of Hopkins Elementary on Wednesday, March 20th. The topic for his presentation was: **"I Can Do It!"** A self-esteem show encouraging kids to recognize the fact that it’s **WHO YOU ARE ON THE INSIDE** that matters and why you should never give up! It also emphasized the value of teamwork, believing in yourself and getting along with others.

Sycamore Elementary 2018-2019

Diversity Update – 4/29/19

All of our students are receiving "A" Team tickets as part of our positive behavior plan. Two prize drawings have taken place so far. Also, an added expectation this year is simply the phrase "Be Kind."

Molly Khang is continuing to do social behavior lessons in every grade level once a month. Lessons range from how to be a friend to anti-bullying and sticking up for each other. These lessons tie in nicely to the training students and staff received last year from Dr. McEvoy.

4th grade - We just finished a nonfiction reading unit and an informational writing unit. Students read a biography of their choice and wrote a report. The result was a mix of people from different cultures and ethnicities. It prompts good conversations!

Library - These are the stories I have shared in the library for Black History Month:

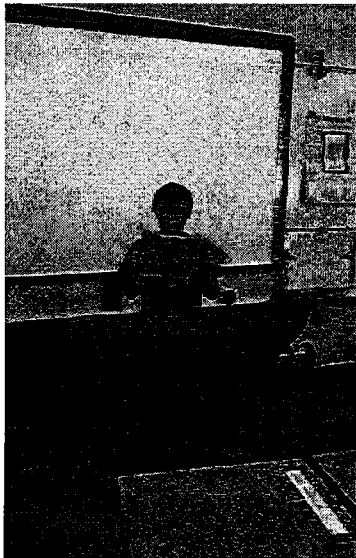
Hula Hoopin Queen by Thelma Godin (fiction)

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (fiction)

Henry's Freedom Box by Kadir Nelson (non fiction)

I am Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer (non fiction)

Music – Our spring concert just took place last week. The overall theme was about being kind and being good friends. Megan took a lot of time during class discussing the theme of their songs with each grade level and really gave the students a chance to digest the lyrics.



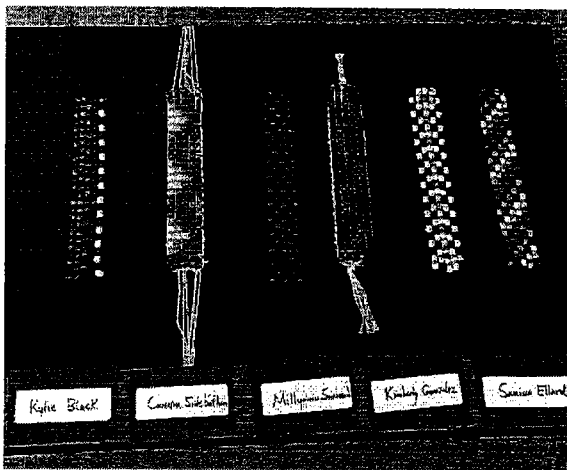
**Diversity Committee
Middle School
Updates for 4/29/19**

As the school year winds down, our positive behavior support system of following the ROAD becomes even more critical. Students and staff will be looking forward to multiple field trips for positive behavior rewards as well as curricular celebrations like the All A's ceremony and 8th grade graduation. I've included an example of the exposure to diverse cultures our students experience through curriculum.

Curriculum:

This year Ms. Dana has added an "Art of Diversity" Elective Class. She will be teaching this to 6th, 7th and 8th graders each trimester respectively.

Recent project:



Hopkins High School Report for Diversity Committee 4/29/19

Events that have happened since the ~~January~~^{February} update that have a direct correlation with addressing our diversity needs:

1. During Homeroom we have conducted follow up activities 2-5 to our COV presentations from early January. These scheduled activities included:
 - a. Across the Great Divide- reinforce positive relationships
 - b. Alter Shake- reinforce Responsibility
 - c. Circle Clap- reinforcing a Culture of Value
 - d. Setting Goals- giving students ownership
2. Our culture committee will be working on other ways to keep the idea of respecting each other in the forefront. Building "Positive Peer Relationships" with our staff and students.
3. We have administered the Diversity Committee's survey to all grade levels.

Coming Soon:

1. Culture Committee meets on Wednesday 5/1 to discuss how to further our COV practices our existing students and how to introduce and begin the process with our incoming freshman and new students.
2. On Friday 5/3 our DPPD (professional development) will center on supporting students using COV as a lens. Topics include:
 - a. Native American Culture- Jannon Cotto
 - b. Autism- Kailee Bisbee
 - c. Race- Kathryn Curry
3. Students will be given a 2nd survey on school climate developed by the Teaching Tolerance initiative of the Southern Poverty Law Center which included question that reflects in part slurs and other racially sensitive behaviors. We plan on using this survey two times this year and see if we move the needle to the positive.