## Oriole Park Local School Council Equity Committee Mintues Monday, June 10th, 2019 Start time: 5:30pm

1. Call to order: 5:45PM

<u>Committee members present</u>: Barb Brodsky, Sara Arnold, Libby Madej, Daun Vaswani, Ewa Mascarenhas, Karen Torres, Liz Schultz, Anne Breen, Candace McGuffey, Al Grippe

<u>Committee members not present:</u> Julie Fehler-Render, Matt Render, Annie Rarey, Radostina Apostolova, Emily Hogan

- 2. Welcome and introductions
- 3. Acceptance of agenda
  - a. Suggestion to move Public Participation to the beginning of the agenda for this meeting and future meetings
    - i. Motion: Liz; Second: Sara; Approved unanimously
- 4. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting
  - a. Motion: Sara; Second: Candace; Approved unanimously
- 5. Public Participation: None
- 6. Update on LSC meeting
  - a. Bathrooms
    - i. School has an "everyone" sign on a private bathroom now, but it is not being messaged to students
    - ii. Safety concern about the lock being only on the inside of the door
    - iii. Al will recommend to admin that the "everyone" bathroom be messaged to students by staff so that they will know it is available to students who need a safe place to use the bathroom
      - Messaging suggestion: During Teacher PD / How to mention it in our back to school messages - "We are a safe school and we have specific expectations within our school. One is that students in need of a safe space to use the bathroom have that space. If you see this symbol this is the location."

## b. Lanyards

- i. "OUT" badges were ordered for all of the staff to wear (optional) that signflies that OPS is a safe school for individuals who are LGBTQ
  - Candace will email staff about what the OUT badges are and what they mean
  - 2. Al will recommend that the OUT lanyards be messaged to students by staff so that they will know what they mean
- ii. Question: Can this be discussed during health class?
  - 1. No health being taught right now at OPS, but CPS mandates that all grades have a specific number of minutes of health education

- 2. Equity committee recommends that the LSC vote on adhering to the CPS-mandated health education beginning with the 19/20 school year (300 minutes per year for K-4; 600 minutes per year for 5-8 and 2 trained instructors)
  - a. Motion: Libby; Second: Al
  - b. Approved: unanimous
  - c. This needs to be added to the next LSC agenda
- Counselor: our counselor will be full-time next year (no case management duties), but will have academic goals and mental health goals as part of their job description (not solely mental health)

## 7. Plans for FY20

- a. Meeting dates:
  - i. Possibly making EC meetings the week before LSC meetings instead of after
  - ii. August meeting date will be decided later via email
- b. Activities/outcomes
  - i. Supporting a safe school as a focus for next year (including SEL, hate speech, mental health)
  - ii. School Culture and Climate Committee we recommend the school begin this type of committee among staff and possibly work alongside it as the EC
    - 1. Recommendation from another nearby school:
      - Begin a School Culture committee as staff only first and then figure out how to bring this to the entire school community (3-year process)
  - iii. Equity committee can be used as a tool for the school and the LSC to focus on equity rather than only bringing our own suggestions/recommendations to the LSC without their involvment/input
    - If topics come up in a EC meeting, we can bring those to the LSC and ask if they would like us to do a "deep dive" into the topics and bring back recommendations
  - iv. Provide more opportunities for parents to engage and share experiences
    - Bilingual Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the LSC that is designed to assist and involved parents of students who are bilingual - OPS does not have an active BAC
      - a. Suggestions:
        - We can invite the teacher in charge of the BAC to an EC meeting and offer our support
        - ii. Personal outreach to parents of bilingual students/families
        - iii. Making parents aware of their rights and a CPS form they can use to request communications in their own language and use a tele-translation service to communicate with teachers/staff

- c. Regional committees
  - i. Ask LSC to add EC to the bylaws
  - ii. LSC member will add this to the July organizational meeting
  - iii. Other LSCs have been contacted on the northside are interested about starting ECs as part of their LSC
    - Suggesiton: invite members of nearby schools' LSCs to come to our meetings and we can offer our support at their meetings if they want to
- 8. Other business and/or announcements
  - a. Digital access: this was brought up at the LSC meeting and was received well
  - NAMI has mental health curriculum for kids that is well-formatted for 7-8 grades and they are currently creating a curriculum for younger grades – Liz is a resource for this
  - c. Yearbook: several individuals have emailed the principal and expressed concern and providing resources to address the white nationalist gesture in the yearbook
    - i. Response has been that there will be a statement, but no word on actions to be taken
    - ii. MAGA hats & shirts are also in the yearbook a local group is looking into bringing MAGA-wear issue to the CPS school board to ask for a statement. Discussion regarding banning MAGA wear in our school since dress code is up to individual schools.
- 9. Future tasks and/or agenda items
  - a. Update EC membership forms
  - b. Add following agenda items to organizational LSC meeting in July:
    - i. Bathrooms & OUT lanyards
      - 1. Acknowledge and show appreciation for the bathroom update
      - 2. Discuss: How to announce that there is an "everyone" bathroom and the OUT lanyards' meaning
    - ii. CPS-mandated Health curriculum
    - iii. Committee / LSC relationships and adding EC to the LSC bylaws
  - c. Send out poll about August EC meeting date
  - d. Possibly add more inclusive words to the EC form/logo/description (ex: kindness, compassion, inclusiveness etc.)
- 10. Adjourned at 7:47PM
  - a. Motion to adjourn: Libby; Second: Sara; Approved unanimously
- 11. Next Meeting: TBD (August)