

Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group

Minutes from 1/8/18 Diversity Task Group meeting
Approved at the February 12, 2018 meeting

Attendees: Yawa Degboe (co-chair), Sarita Duradi, Brooks Harrelson
Michaiah Healy, David Landskov, Jane Lynch, Lynette Martyn, Anne Mathes, Farjam
Mohtadi, Allan Schramm, Grace Willoughby, Edith Wun,

After the introduction, we approved the minutes from the last meeting.

There was a presentation from Jane Lynch on cultural competency. Jane is a consultant with Visions, Inc. and does training workshops. We discussed the definition of cultural competency; Jane described this as more of a process and a mindset, rather than a body of knowledge that everyone works on throughout their lifetime.

We did a cultural sharing exercise: we broke up into small groups and shared attributed of our identities, what we liked and didn't like about that identification, and how our backgrounds might help or hinder us in our work

Handouts were distributed about the characteristics of the culturally competent educator.

There was a discussion of the current situation in the Arlington Public Schools; some committee members discussed incidents of concern that had taken place in the schools, and we discussed the fact that not all parents are aware that such incidents have taken place.

There had been a meeting earlier in the day with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bodie. She invited the DTG to present at a Feb. 5th meeting of the elementary school principals. There was a discussion about developing a plan for the Feb. 5th meeting and the need to focus on the parents. In terms of a timeline, we will probably not be able to have cultural competency training implemented this year, but perhaps next year would be more realistic. We need time to raise awareness and get people to participate.

There was a discussion about how to raise awareness of what cultural competency entails. Suggestions included getting stories published with perspectives from different community members; we could contact a journalist and/or use social media. Grace can ask high school students to see if they are interested in writing articles.

At the end, there was a brief discussion of whether we should start meetings earlier than 7 pm; the consensus seemed to be: "No."