



**Community Task Force
Youth Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 1, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Roll Call

Present: Will Knapke, Jamil Robinson, Mrs. Robinson, Audrey Bannister, Samhi Boppana
Staff: Kirby Dearth, Deidra Wolf

2. Guest Speakers

Dr. Todd Hoadley – Dublin City Schools Superintendent
Dr. John Marschhausen – Hilliard City Schools Superintendent

Dr. Hoadley applauded the Youth Subcommittee Members for their leadership.

The Youth Subcommittee suggested that the Board of Education implement discussions of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at the elementary and middle school levels. Dr. Hoadley said that Dublin City Schools are in the process of hiring a DEI Director and he agreed that having these discussions in the elementary/middle school level is critical to making change. He stated that individual schools and districts can tailor their DEI plans to meet the unique needs and populations.

Dr. Marschhausen said that teachers need to be prepared to have these discussions in the classroom. The subject has been avoided far too long therefore making it uncomfortable but teachers need to start the discussions now in order to embrace change and take an anti-racism approach. Dr. Marschhausen called on students to lead and be the next generations of leaders. Dr. Hoadley stated the solutions need to be similar but not identical. Will Knapke stated the importance of starting the discussions at the middle school level for more effectiveness and engagement as high school is too late.

DEI is our nationwide fabric and we need to include our surrounding school districts. Dr. Marschhausen said that Hilliard City Council is considering an LGBTQ+ initiative. He said that education, activism and student support need to be done the appropriate way.

Mrs. Robinson suggested that we create small wins especially at the high school level to help let students know that progress is being made. Hilliard has active student groups with advisors, gay/straight alliance and BIPOC populations with advisors and they have hired a DEI Director. When asked what black students' experience was at Hilliard, Dr. Marchhausen said the responses were shocking. He stated the importance of keeping this issue front and center.

Audrey Bannister spoke about the Global Café at Dublin Scioto and similar events at Dublin Coffman. She said that this is a way to bring people together and educate them on different cultures, clothing, food, beliefs, etc. She suggested a larger event and bridging the communities together after the pandemic.

Samhi Boppana said that Dublin Jerome has Multi-Cultural Day where students bring in different foods and activities to bring awareness to other cultures. She agreed that bringing the communities together would be a great idea.



Mrs. Robinson asked the students how they feel activities such as these help and do they feel that a difference is being made. Audrey said that when history is learned at these types of events it brings empathy. Mrs. Robinson referred to a video from Columbus Public Schools, done by students, on self-awareness relating to equity and focused on self-worth and a sense of belonging. She suggested implementing something similar between schools in a friendly, competitive way. Dr. Hoadley said that Dublin High Schools will be merging their video broadcasting systems next year and that this could be a great kickoff theme for the first year.

Will Knapke said that he was not aware of the "Dear Dublin" and "Dear Hilliard" letters until months later. He felt that if more personal stories were shared it would have a greater impact. Dr. Marchhausen suggested sharing these stories in smaller groups. He said that teachers need to know how black and brown students feel and then change their own behavior. Students need to feel safe in sharing these stories. "Dear Dublin", has sparked adult conversation and helped adults to look at behavior and blind spots that they have. Dr. Hoadley encouraged to have the Youth Subcommittee create ideas to pass the baton after they graduate.

Mrs. Robinson asked about faculty, staff and administration somehow briefing the student body of their own ignorance as adults and engage with their students. Dr. Marchhausen said that Hilliard is implementing multiple subgroups such as this group. He shared his excitement of being able to gather again in-person to better connect and engage in these issues. He thanked the Youth Subcommittee for all of their hard work.

Kirby Dearth asked Dr. Marchhausen how their DEI program provides the greatest opportunity to implement similar work at other local schools. Dr. Marchhausen said that last July the Board of Education passed an anti-racism resolution requiring the hire of a DEI Director. Hilliard also has two student level diversity coordinators that focus on equity. The Hilliard Board of Education has directed Dr. Marchhausen with three specific requirements: a curriculum audit, a policy audit and a 3-year plan with measurable goals and objectives. He stated that the board has identified that there is systemic racism within the district and that they are committed to becoming an anti-racism district. Hilliard does a monthly call with the OSU Kirwan Institute and partners with them.

Dr. Marchhausen asked about opportunities for local school districts to hold community-wide events that celebrate diversity. He said that Hilliard School Board has an edge on educating in the schools and Dublin City Council has an edge on educating the community and we need to bring those together.

3. **Adjourn** – 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Monday, March 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.
(Virtual Platform)