Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Meeting minutes from 12/18/2018

In attendance:
Commissioners: Liz Curry, Monika Ivancic, Jean Waltz,
BSD Staff: Miriam Ehtesham-Cating, Director of Programs for EL Students and DEALT Coordinator

Public: Tyler Doggett, Sarah Woodard, Infinite Culcleasure, PYC, Laurie Stavrand, Community Coordinator at VRRP, Corali Bisbee, PYC

Meeting called to order at 8:10pm

2. Approval of agenda:
Move to Amend agenda by M Ivancic  
Postpone no. 5 Visit from BSD SRO to January meeting  
Postpone no. 6 Equity & Inclusion Report Review to January meeting when Director of Equity will be present

Roberts Rules suspended
3. Public Comments - opted for general discussion

Questions about Equity Report  
Acronym - IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is federal funding for 504 needs  
Ask DEALT and Russ to provide key for acronyms on website - Jean volunteered to ask  
BSD no longer uses SWIS (School Wide Information System)

District has to track data based on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) framework that was set up 2 years ago  
EL was set up on a growth model  
Vermont’s ESSA plan has been approved  
BSD plan has been submitted to AOE for ESSA

Title 1 questions from public:
What are the ESSA data points that go into Equity Data Report and how does that connect to equity data in ESSA?

What is parent involvement plan in state plan? PYC is meeting with Barry about parent involvement plan.
Miriam explained that Integrated field review team from AOE and other districts is coming in March to look at BSD ESSA plan implemented. There is also a peer review process from folks elsewhere in VT. BSD directors submitted names of people in district who could do monitoring in other districts.

7. Bullying and Hazing
Kids afraid of reporting so in some cases the behavior isn’t even getting reported to adults
RP work for BSD educators was done during the half-day PD last Thursday Dec. 6th
Issue of unconscious bias in RP as a dominant culture exercise
Language barriers can also be impediment

Model has met with success in diverse communities like Oakland
Connecting equity to RP confronted issues of bias and prejudice
Can’t move to positive climate and culture without equity, and can’t have an equitable/level playing field without the issues being addressed

RP Collaborative meets monthly for half a day and is offered a sub
Each school was invited to get Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 training in July 2018

Monika explained 3 tiers of RP
First tier - building community & relationships
Each school has an RP team that has been trained
There is a core group of educators that have received Tier 1 RP training

Tier 2 - addresses problems that occur; specifically with people that cause problem; repair relationships; plan to address needs and repair harm
Tier 3 - is more intervention and deals with re-integration of perpetrator

Paraeducators have a tough time getting training due to not being paid for training days
During the current school year they are receiving half-day PD sessions bi-monthly

Bullying & Hazing Policy - is posted on the website and can be translated into Spanish

Legal requirement to post on website
Posters on website have 2 designated employees in building - listed on website too

Need acronyms to be defined on equity report card
Public raised issue that standards and expectations for behavior differ between school day and afterschool or summer school and there are no Restorative Practices training. Staff are not the same as school day staff - they are staff of Expanded Learning Program. Christie Gilese is Expanded Learning Director. Curry suggested that public ask City for RP training funds since City pays for afterschool.

Describe the work flow or path for students to use to raise bullying-type problems. Safe reporting changes? Retaliation is another reason why kids don’t report.

Socio-emotional learning embedded in curriculum is a District goal and is included in RP. Socio-emotional curriculum currently doesn’t exist above elementary school level.

PYC explained that ESSA basically is a strategic plan. Contains 10 parts. We should be aligning budget with it.

VRRP. BHS Juniors and seniors who immigrant are not getting college app guidance they need. Students need an Advisor. Many EL Students don’t know what college process is. Don’t know how to prepare for it. Being pushed to CCV b/c they are not being offered PSAT/SAT/ACT not being offered TOEFL either. Not being told what a college essay is. BHS Guidance office failing them.

Meeting adjourned after 9:45pm.