

Michelle

Duke Nicholson shared that the Curriculum Resources working group talked about how secondary text, such as Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet, which touch on topics of murder and suicide can have an effect on some students and should be removed. They discussed that building and understanding around racial literacy should be happening in all subject areas in secondary school, not just English. They spoke about how students are taught and see themselves in the world, and they want to make space for diverse ways of knowing and to understanding of the complexities of Black communities.

have been discussed. The police are experts in safety, there have been discussions on how to leverage that expertise without having officers roam hallways

SopeDuyile shared that at the beginning of the year, the BCAC Secondary Student Representatives working group discussed this year's theme of 'We are Many, We are One.' as well as the Black Voice and Guide and how to start and be successful in Black labs at schools. At their November meeting, they discussed different ideas for how to make BSAs at schools better.

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A discussion ensued.

Wayne Brunton stated that if anyone has heard of a school that is not supporting affinity spaces or BSA groups, that they should reach out to him or email him. He will follow up with that school as that is not the message that the Board has been echoing to secondary schools and administrators. He confirmed that Max and the other six family of school superintendents would like to know as well.

Sharise Seal-McCallum clarified that administrators are allowing affinity spaces to happen in schools and students are allowed to connect, but the mindset of some teachers building is a problem.

Max Vecchiarino commented that schools should be welcoming of these groups and actions and not allowing them. If that perception exists for even a moment, there is a lot more work to be done. As senior management, they assume that because they are supporting, promoting and putting funds to these groups that there is action being taken. However, there seems to be some resistance that seems subversive. Max promised to follow up with the superintendents of schools.

A discussion ensued.

Max Vecchiarino commented that this crisis will not resolve itself unless we are effective on both sides of the equation. Significant measures have been put in place on the professional development side but lately they have realized and have followed up with the importance of having people accountable. There is a high level of investigation with people being held to account with consequences up to and including termination. The Board is aware that providing a space for teachers to learn is important but that accountability is also necessary and very significant accountability measures have been put in place.

b. Vacant Positions within Black Community Advisory Council

Nancy Cigioli advised that there are two positions that need to be filled within the council. There is a student representative position and a COA secondary representative position to fill. Council members were asked to think about how they want to work towards filling these vacant positions and provide feedback. Last year, to fill the vacant student position, they gathered information from interested students and then held a meeting to vote in the new member.

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practice. Specific groups were targeted such as librarians, administrators and educators to see what books they are selecting and if it was out of an anti-oppressive practice. Folators

depending on who is available.

A discussion ensued.

Michelle Coutinho concluded that this is something being brought to the council, relying on members feedback and expertise in this area before moving to make a decision. Perhaps one of the working groups can figure out how to best represent the voice of this council with this particular subject.

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