

EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S 2023 WORK

APRIL

Hosted a dinner with several of the state's DEI/DEIB directors to discuss what is happening in their districts and how we can support them.

JULY

Co-sponsored Frederick Douglass Community Reading of "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" on July 1 at the Exeter Town Hall. This is an annual cooperative effort initiated by the Black Heritage Trail NH and participated in by 13 towns. This year, we had 30 readers and an audience of 30. The program videotaped by Exeter TV

AUGUST

Prepared joint statement, together with Oyster River Equity and Justice, opposing the Prager U Financial Literacy Course proposal and submitted it to the State Board of Education to be included as commentary for the September 14 meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Engaged in discussion (still ongoing) regarding the purpose of the Education Committee and how it fits into the larger structure of RUT.

Developed a "Mission Statement"

The RUT Education Committee supports the mission of the Racial Unity Team by advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging (DEIJB) in public schools.

Our committee is made up of community members, educators, and students. We meet once a month to discuss important issues pertaining to education across the state. Some of the work we do includes:

- Monitoring the NH Legislature, State Board of Education, and NH Department of Education with a focus on important bills and policies related to DEIJB issues;
- Planning events and discussions to educate NH communities about the goals of DEIJB;
- Engaging NH residents in DEIJB advocacy;
- Supporting educators, particularly those who are committed to antiracism and social justice in teaching and learning;

- Preserving public education in New Hampshire;
- Proactively dealing with issues relating to intellectual freedom and banned or challenged books;
- Developing and maintaining an online resource list that includes books, articles, videos, organizations, and institutions for parents, teachers and the general public that highlight the importance of support for DEIJB education at all levels of schooling.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

As a result of our discussions in September, the Education Committee decided to focus on developing content for our page on the RUT website and develop a protocol for updating that page and increasing our visibility. We are awaiting direction from RUT as to how and when the website can be updated. The following items are ready to post:

- 1. A short paragraph and links to the following SAU16 documents: “SAU 16 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Two Year Report,” “Non-Discrimination Equal Opportunity Employment and District Anti-Discrimination Plan,” and “Protocol for Responding to Harassment and Discrimination, School Administrative Unit 16.”**
- 2. A resource list divided into two main subheadings: “For Educators” and “For Families/Community Members.”**

ONGOING THROUGHOUT 2023

Monitored pending legislation and policy initiatives in the NH House and Senate, the State Board of Education, and SAU16

GOALS FOR 2024:

- 1. Develop and maintain a user-friendly page on the RUT website, with relevant and up-to-date information for educators and parents/community members.**
- 2. Expand the committee size and educator participation on the Education Committee.**
- 3. Connect and form relationships with other organizations in the state focused on building equitable opportunities for students and preserving our public schools, such as the Center for Equity and Justice in New Hampshire.**
- 4. Continuing to monitor legislation that would enhance or threaten our organizational goals.**
- 5. Plan a follow-up dinner with DEIJ/DEIB directors.**