

Minutes of RUT Education Committee, 9/26/23
IN PERSON: 8 Cass St., Exeter

Attending: Julia Lavine, Aliyana Koch-Manzur, Pat Yosha, Nancy Zajano

I. Content on Education Committee page of RUT website (see Shawna's draft of 7/28/23)

A. Questions/Issues related to current Education page:

- 1) Why is the Education Committee listed under "Governance?"
- 2) Are we consistent with the addition of the "B" in DEIJB on the Education page?
- 3) Are we consistent with the addition of the "B" in DEIJB on the entire RUT website?
- 4) Are we consistent with other organizations doing this work? For example, SAU 16 does not include the "B."

Actions: Nancy will approach Ken about these questions. [Julia made request to discuss with Ken via 9/27/23 email.]

Aliyana volunteered to assist with the website to make it more approachable, especially to a younger audience.

B. Discussion of content addition to the Education page, working from Shawna's 7/29/23 draft, yielded the following revised 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."

Action: Julia will forward to full committee and then to Ken for posting on website.

Action: We need to develop the resource mentioned in last bullet. We need to assign someone to this ongoing task.

II. Follow-up with Andres Mejia to see if we can help spread the word about the new SAU 16 anti-discrimination protocol?

Pat learned that Andres would like us to monitor the SAU 16 Cooperative School Board. (Trisha Maynard is currently assigned to monitoring SAU 16.)

Question for Andres:

Can we post the new *Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity and Employment and District Anti-Discrimination Plan* and the *Protocol to Respond to Harassment and Discrimination* on the Education page of the RUT website?

Action: Pat will ask Andres if we have permission to do so. [Request sent in 9/27/23 email from Pat to Andres.]

III. Hispanic Heritage Awareness Month (9/15-10/15)

Due to delayed dates of this meeting, little planning was done for this item. However, Julia Lanter prepared a list of Hispanic Heritage resources that will be posted on Education page and there are other resources listed on overall RUT site.

IV. PragerU follow-up - No discussion

V. New ideas for Education Committee Actions

1. We sponsor Water Street Bookstore display and reading of banned and challenged books, especially ones dealing with racial issues.

Action: No one assigned to this task.

2. We display the books that SAU 16 teachers and school librarians have asked or been asked to withdraw from classrooms and libraries this past year out of fear of the Commissioner of Education and the state legislature actions to potentially cancel a teacher's license. We would not name teachers or librarians. This would be a way of letting the public know of the threats to public education.

Action: [Pat added this request to Andres in her 9/27/23 email noted above.]

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Zajano
10/1/23