

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP**

Regular Board Meeting of May 23, 2017

ITEM: PROMOTING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF

PREPARED BY: MARIE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR III--EDUCATIONAL AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

TYPE OF ITEM: STAFF REPORT

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Governing Board and community with information regarding the activities taking place throughout the District to promote a safe, supportive, and collaborative environment for all students and staff.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to issues of discrimination and inequity, the Governing Board, District staff, and members of the Albany community have been engaged in dialogue around strategies to ensure respect, inclusion, and empathy for all members of the learning community. District staff will highlight some of the proactive steps students, staff, and community members are initiating in order to improve the culture and climate of our school community.

DETAILS:

Task Force (“Albany Coming Together”)

Approximately 80 students, community members, and AUSD staff convened at the Albany Community Center on Tuesday May 16, 2017 for the first AUSD Equity Task Force Meeting. Superintendent Williams welcomed the attendees and introduced the first of three facilitators for the evening’s agenda, Evelyn Shen. The opening activity invited participants to share about their ethnic background, reflect on the impact of the recent discriminatory events, and articulate their reasons for volunteering to participate in the Equity Task Force.

The second activity, led by Clementina Duron, involved each participant self-selecting one area of interest for further exploration and involvement. Areas included: Policy, Student Engagement, Community Engagement, Technology, and Professional Development, and Curriculum and Instruction. Once in groups, participants identified specific topics of interest, selected a sub-committee chairperson, and identified a future meeting date.

The final activity of the evening, led by Alexia Ritchie, included brainstorming a new name for the group. As participants exited the session they “spent a dot” on their top choice for the group’s new name. The group collectively decided on “Albany Coming Together (ACT).”

Student led Conversations about Race and Inequity/Healing and Learning Sessions

On Wednesday May 17, 2017, students facilitated a “Healing/Learning Session” in a sophomore English language arts classroom. The students have engaged approximately 500 students at Albany High School through these sessions.

The facilitators began the session by sharing their individual “Why” for becoming involved in the student led discussions and previewed the session activities. They encouraged students to be “Exquisite listeners” and to “try on” new ideas. Students explored concepts of racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege and then brainstormed ways to interrupt ideologies, belief systems and institutions that perpetuate racism, sexism and oppression locally and globally. In closing, student participants reflected on their experience in the session and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to talk about the difficult topics of racism and sexism with their peers.

Board Policy/Administrative Regulations

At the April 25, 2017 Governing Board meeting, District staff reviewed the alignment between current District practices and Board Policies/Administrative Regulations that address nondiscrimination/harassment, conduct, bullying, discipline, and hate-motivated behavior. In the coming weeks, District staff will present several Board Policies and Administrative Regulations to the Governing Board for review, discussion and approval.

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:



Objective #3: Communicate and Lead Together. Goal: All stakeholders will collaborate and communicate about decisions that guide the sites and district.

RECOMMENDATION: RECEIVE THE STAFF REPORT ON PROMOTING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS