

Diversity Committee Progress Report

The Diversity Committee is a group of parents, community members, teachers, administrators, and staff members who volunteer their time to further diversity efforts in our district. The mission of this important group is to make recommendations to the superintendent that support the district's mission and ensure that the diverse talents, skills and experiences of the school community are valued, respected and supported.

As we begin another exciting school year, the members of the Diversity Committee would like to share some significant accomplishments from the 2010-11 school year. Below is a brief listing of those accomplishments and upcoming projects:

- Completion of the first ever staff "Diversity and Inclusion Questionnaire".
- District-wide (professional development) activity viewing of "A Class Divided".
- Completion of a Minority Educator Focus Group.
- Development of an on-line diversity and inclusion resource bank for teachers.
- Development of a diversity committee brochure to welcome new families to the district.
- Development of a diversity committee "referral form" to strengthen our diversity recruiting efforts.
- Participation in a "post play discussion" following the performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at Olentangy Orange High School.
- Over 50 district teachers attended a "Diversity and Self-Awareness Training" session on June 20th and 22nd as part of the district's summer professional development programs.
- On Friday, August 5th, all building principals district-wide attended a half-day training session hosted by Janet Monseur Durr regarding diversity, inclusion and the role of the building principal.
- On Thursday, July 20th, Todd Corley, Community Chairperson, Gale Marsh, Executive Director of Human Resources and Operations, and the subcommittee chairs met to begin planning for the 2011-12 school year and, specifically, how each subcommittee might incorporate the upcoming COSI exhibit "The Story of Race" into their efforts.
- The district welcomed seven (7) new minority teachers for the 2011-12 school year. In less than two (2) years the district has "doubled" the number of minority educators.
- On Tuesday, August 9th, Dr. Lucas welcomed 85 new teachers to the district and shared the goals of the district diversity committee and the expectation that they complete the "Diversity and Inclusion Questionnaire" that all staff members completed in October 2010.
- On Wednesday, August 17th, middle and high school department chairs / teacher leaders met and discussed the unique learning opportunity that the COSI exhibit will present. The Achievement and Accountability Department will continue this work to ensure our students have the opportunity to attend this event.