

# Community Education Council District 2

Diversity Committee Meeting Notes

September 27, 2016

6:00PM

## Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- D2 student demographics data analysis presentation
- Discussion
- Border Crossers
- Next steps

### **D2 student demographic data analysis presentation**

Shino presented data analysis on student demographics (race, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, and students with disabilities) and ELA and Math proficiency levels as indicated by state test scores for 4th and 6th graders.

The presentation is available on the CECD2 website (<http://www.cecd2.net/diversity-committee>)

### **Discussion on demographics analysis**

An attendee was shocked to learn that school districts are not legally mandated to integrate schools and that segregation is tolerated.

We had a discussion on the slide that shows where our 5th graders are going to middle schools (slide #34). While our 5th graders do travel outside their neighborhood to attend middle schools, there is a general geographical trend that shows some preference for proximity.

Questions were raised on whether public transportation is a hinderance. While it is a factor in middle school application decision making for many families, we generally agreed that public transportation patterns are not the primary driver of segregation.

Admissions method was also discussed as a factor that potentially segregates students. While many screened middle schools have a larger than the district average of white students, two of the handful of schools that reflect the demographic (racial, socioeconomic, English proficiency, special needs) of the district are screened schools.

Lottery admission by itself does not desegregate schools as is evidenced in District 1 where elementary schools are unzoned and families are admitted by lottery. A system that ensures equitable distribution of students is necessary beyond a particular admissions method.

We also discussed the need for professional development to train teachers and administrators in teaching diverse students and to develop culturally and ethnically relevant and appropriate curriculum. Creating diverse schools is only one of several steps needed to create racial equity in our schools.

### **Border Crossers**

CECD2 approved a budget line for Border Crossers, whose representatives made a presentation at the CECD2 meeting on 9/20.

We agreed to host a Saturday workshop for parents in January. A description of the parent workshop is below:

### **Talking About Race for Parents: Raising Children for Racial Justice**

This training provides parents, guardians and caregivers with strategies for how to talk about race and racism with their children. Participants learn how children see race, gain skills for approaching age-appropriate conversations with a racial equity lens, and practice strategies to promote positive racial identity development in children.

We discussed the need to educate other parents on the benefits of diversity and integration. The Diversity Committee has plans to host forums after the parent workshop with Border Crossers.

**Next meeting:** Monday November 14th at 6PM (location TBD - likely 333 Seventh Ave)

### **Attendees list**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alexandra	Alves	PS2, UFT CL
Claude	Arpels	CECD2
Akeela	Azcuy	PS3
Robin	Broshi	CECD2, President
Sherilyn	Casiano	MS177 PTA/ PS59
Erik	Coler	CB2
Celia	Green	CECD75
Guanhong	Hu	Columbia Journalism School
Josephine	Ishman	PS212
John	Keller	CECD2
Patricia	Laraia	IS289 PTA
Betty	Ng	PS77 parent

Zeynep	Ozkan	Principal, IS289
Eunice	Paul	BOSS
Denise	Perez	AP, PS77
Shino	Tanikawa	CECD2, Committee Chair
Karyn	Thompson	Parent
Stephanie	Velasquez	PS198