October 22, 2019

Dear MSAAC Membership,

Thank you to everyone for coming out to the 2nd MSAAC meeting of the 2019-2020 academic school year - there were nearly 200 students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders in attendance. This affirms that you are committed to ensuring that there are equitable opportunities available for every student in Loudoun County Public Schools. The MSAAC meeting was recorded on video and the link will be shared upon release.

We were glad to reintroduce you to your MSAAC Leadership for the 2019-2020 school year and affirm our commitment to the MSAAC Mission. Beginning this month, the LCPS Director of Equity, Ms. Lottie Spurlock, provided a LCPS Equity update on professional learning, student support, Social-Emotional Learning and engagement opportunities extended by LCPS to MSAAC. The LCPS Equity Webpage has also been launched and can be found at the Superintendent’s webpage at the following link: https://www.lcps.org/Page/222509. LCPS leaders for social-emotional learning were also introduced;

- Dr. Tracy Jackson, School Counseling Supervisor
- Dr. John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Prevention Services
- Mrs. Stefanie LaPolla, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Supervisor
- Guest Psychologist: Justin S. Hopkins, Psy.D.

During the 1st meeting in September, MSAAC hosted a panel to discuss the LCPS Equity Assessment. Many readers were shocked to learn about some of the racial incidents documented in the assessment. The MSAAC Executive Board was concerned with how various LCPS stakeholders can navigate such incidents, to include understanding the availability of resources within LCPS to address the mental health needs of students involved in racial encounters.

This week our featured speaker was Dr. Valerie Adams-Bass, of the University of Virginia Curry School of Education and Human Development, Youth-Nex | The UVA Center to Promote Effective Youth Development and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Racial Empowerment Collaborative. The presentation was titled, “Racial Encounters of the Personal Kind What Now? What’s Next? and it will be found at the following link once it is received, https://www.lcps.org/Page/223177.

If you were pleased with what you learned during the session, know that it was only the tip of the iceberg. For additional presentations or workshops;

1. Please email Dr. Adams-Bass at vnb2j@virginia.edu or call her at 215-530-0077
2. Have an idea of the kind of workshop and/or audience? Wednesday’s session was an overview of concepts and sample contents from sessions offered with other school districts. The type of workshop would be tailored based upon discussions with Dr. Adams-Bass.
3. Workshops may include data collection and would need consent and assent forms from participants. Assent is for the youth under 18. They have measures used to collect data from parents, students and teachers to assess racial literacy, socialization, stress levels, and media messages.

There are several upcoming opportunities to engage in Equity work both internal and external to LCPS. Below is a listing of the opportunities with points of contact.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tour Level Up and Propel After School Programs</td>
<td>The Loudoun Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that supports Loudoun County Public Schools by providing funding for critical and exceptional programs that stimulate students’ curiosity, create exceptional learning opportunities, and provide needed resources to teachers, students, and families. This is an opportunity to a program for possible expansion to target underrepresented groups. (RSVP to <a href="mailto:MSAACChair@lcps.org">MSAACChair@lcps.org</a>)</td>
<td>10/23 from 2:45pm to 4:45pm</td>
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<td>Leveled Literacy Intervention Program (LLI)</td>
<td>A resource used by some teachers to provide differentiated intervention support to students, based on their learning needs. They are asking MSAAC to partner with teacher and central office leaders from the Special Ed, Reading, and the English Learner (EL) departments in this review and audit of this program, through an equity lens. We need to provide the names of 3 MSAAC representatives to be part of this working group. Interested in volunteering, please email <a href="mailto:MSAACSecretary@lcps.org">MSAACSecretary@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>10/23, 10/30 &amp; TBD</td>
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<td>Revolutionary Educator’s Book Club</td>
<td>Loudoun Education Association and the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee are hosting a monthly book club. Participants will be reading the non-fiction book The Coldest Winter Ever by Sister Souljah. Please register at <a href="http://www.bit.ly/LEABookClub">www.bit.ly/LEABookClub</a></td>
<td>10/24, 11/14, 11/21, 12/12 &amp; 12/19</td>
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<td>LCPS School Naming Committee</td>
<td>LCPS staff has requested that MSAAC nominate two representatives to the school board to support the establishment of naming committee for two new schools in LCPS. MSAAC needs an alternate representative for one of the committees. Please send an email with interest to <a href="mailto:MSAACSecretary@lcps.org">MSAACSecretary@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>ASAP</td>
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<td>Academies of Loudoun</td>
<td>Hosting tours and focus groups to gather additional recruitment ideas from diverse organizations. Interested in tours or being a part of focus groups? Send email to <a href="mailto:MSAACSecretary@lcps.org">MSAACSecretary@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Loudoun County Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) - Leesburg Halloween Parade</td>
<td>Walking with the MAC behind a “We Are Loudoun” banner at the Leesburg Halloween Parade. Interested, please email <a href="mailto:MSAACCommunications@lcps.org">MSAACCommunications@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>10/31</td>
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<td>Reviewing Equity Policy (*sample policy below)</td>
<td>Interested in reviewing LCPS policy related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion? Please send an email to <a href="mailto:MSAACViceChair@lcps.org">MSAACViceChair@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSAAC Student Representatives</td>
<td>A suggestion was made at the 1st MSAAC meeting to create a path for student involvement in MSAAC. Interested in working on this initiative, please contact <a href="mailto:MSAACSecretary@lcps.org">MSAACSecretary@lcps.org</a></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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We need your help in the review of policies to help develop solutions for our MSAAC Focus Areas. The next LCPS School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30pm at the LCPS Administration building. There are several topics that are of interest to the MSAAC Community.
• Ad Hoc Committee on Equity Recommendation to Continue Ad Hoc Committee on Equity Meetings
• Policy 8250, Bullying Prevention and Education and the deletion of Policy 8-41
• The Timeline for English and Language Arts Textbook/Resource Adoption
• Department of Instruction will present the process for book selection and approval for classroom libraries and school libraries. There has been a significant amount of debate concerning the Diverse Classroom Libraries initiative by LCPS.

Please sign up to speak before the school board this week to voice your support for (1) making the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity a permanent committee of the school board and (2) the Diverse Classroom Libraries initiatives. To speak before the school board, go to the following link to sign up or email your support to the school board at lcsb@lcps.org

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter using the handle @LCPSMSAAC and share with your respective school communities, to include PTA/PTO, teachers and administrators.

We hope you can join us at the next monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00pm at the LCPS Administration building. For the November topic, we will be partnering with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for a discussion on Discipline Disparities.

The MSAAC Executive Board