

Breakfast Meeting: Envisioning Equity in Greater Baltimore's Classrooms 2/19/18

Background: As a follow-up from the 10/7/17 gathering, the College of Education at Towson University convened a breakfast meeting to see our conversations move into action.

Attendance: 16 people representing K12 teachers, non-profits, and universities (UMBC, Morgan, TU, MICA)

The meeting began with the following premise:

Schools have historically underserved Black and Brown children in classroom expectations, in access to arts, in school discipline, in providing resources, and teaching culturally relevant curriculum (as well as in other ways). We all must play a role in reversing in this history.

Breakout groups address the following sets of questions:

- Question #1: What are the ways in which you imagine your work within your sphere to address racial inequity within our schools? What are specific actions you can take?
- Question #2: How can we collaborate so that we are not doubling efforts or undermining efforts? What are mechanisms for us to stay connected in each other's work? How do we stay accountable for doing the work around racial equity?

Our work going forward should involve the following:

1. Creating intentional partnerships between universities and schools so that the interns are vetted for an asset-based approach to working with children of color.
2. Shifting teacher education that provides a racial equity lens for new teachers. Have them be a student for a day to experience what it is like.
3. Find ways to show classroom teaching that demonstrates ways to interrupt racism.
4. Reaching back to high schools to support pathways for students of color to go into teaching and return to their communities. Building pipelines of teachers.
5. Creating parent education so that they can authentically engage with schools and advocate for schools to respond to them.
6. Continuing curriculum audits for racial equity and producing curriculum that disrupts white supremacy.
7. Integrating systems to support children experiencing trauma.
8. Advocating for student-led conferences and student voice in schools.
9. Advocating for a moratorium on school closure in Baltimore.
10. Redefining the public narrative that school choice and market-based solutions are the only ways to improve schools in low-income communities of color.
11. Creating an online group for those interested in working on racial equity and education.
12. Create a rubric for teachers that uphold racial equity and publicly acknowledge K12 teachers in the Baltimore area who demonstrate these qualities.