



November 2020

Becoming Culturally Responsive

Valley Central has already implemented:

- A strong Social and Emotional Learning Initiative
- Hired a Consultant on Culturally Inclusive Education, Dr. Gess LeBlanc who has worked with staff and students in the Middle and High Schools
- Cultural Diversity Club at the High School
- Creation of A Race, Identity and Justice Course at High School
- Professional Development for Faculty
- Procurement of Racially Inclusive Literature for all Elementary Schools
- Created an ad hoc Racial Equity in Education Committee
- Modified the Dress Code (part of VC Code of Conduct) to be culturally responsive
- Appointing a (p/t) District Equity Coach- Zelig Kurland, VCHS Teacher



Applicants Needed for Racial and Social Equity Committee

The Board of Education has created a Racial and Social Equity Committee. The goal of the committee is to drive accountability for the fair and inclusive treatment of all students

The initial charge of the committee is to:

- review District Curriculum so that it reflects diversity and provides the ability to thrive in a multicultural society
- focus on staff diversity and inclusion
- promote cultural literacy among all staff members
- assure fair and equal treatment of all students
- evaluate the effectiveness of the District effort regarding equity



2020-2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Bond,
President
Sarah Messing,
Vice President
Arthur Fitzgerald
Sonia Lewis
Katie McKnight
Diana Revoir
Melvin Wesenberg

Racial/Equity Committee

1 BOE Member, and alternate

6 Parent and Community members
May include recent grads

4 Students
Current HS/8th grade students

4 Faculty
1 HS, 1 MS, 2 Elem.

2 Non-Instruct. Staff
1 Secondary/1 Elem.

3 Administrators
1 HS, 1 MS, 1 Elem.

1 CO Administrator
Superintendent
Ex-Officio

Statement from the BOE

Accepting Applications through 11/30/2020

Fill out the VC Racial and Social Equity Committee Application

(from October 13, 2020 BOE Meeting)

"The District has been criticized and questioned by some for its failure to address, prevent and remedy incidents alleging racial injustice, particularly regarding some involving students.

We have very clear expectations about student behavior. As our policies require, we encourage the reporting of any misconduct regardless of severity.

The District promptly and thoroughly investigates these allegations. While some investigations can be quick, others require more time. In either case, we will not rush an investigation or rush to judgment.

If an investigation determines that disciplinary action should be taken, that is a private matter between the District, and the family. The District is obligated under the law to follow the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Accordingly, the District is not permitted to share information on the outcome of any student discipline with the public.

The District has done a lot to ensure that students have a safe and healthy environment to learn and will continue to do so.

We have a good community and a great student body. Creating a culture of diversity and tolerance, a safe and healthy learning environment should be something that unites us.

We will continue to encourage open honest respectful conversation on ways to improve our District and community."