

Pearl River School District
Equity Task Force Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022

6:00 PM

Dr. Brady opened the meeting and gave a broad overview of the agenda for the evening

Dr. Brady initiated culturally responsive introductions

- Recapped (and modeled) the “culturally responsive” introductions from the last meeting and discussed the importance of sharing this type of information. Group members introduced themselves to each other.
- Dr. Brady asked “what about this type of introduction feels good”? Responses from participants included that it is more personal; intimate,... etc.

Dr. Brady recapped the norms and listening tips for group discussions:

- Norms for group discussions: Stay engaged, experience discomfort, speak your truth, expect and accept non-closure.
- Listening Tips: If you are having a hard time with the discussions, pause, paraphrase, and then probe- ask clarifying questions.

Dr. Brady introduced the group activity - Text discussions from the book

- Use the “4As” protocol
 - What assumptions does the author hold?
 - Do you agree with the author?
 - What do you want to argue with the text?
 - What parts of the text do you want to aspire to?
- Group A (preface)
 - How is being a “builder” different from being solely a “believer”? Is it important to be both?
 - What is the difference between generating “heat” and generating “light”?
 - Are you more likely to use heat than light?
- Group B (page 59)
 - What is the difference between “headwinds” and “tailwinds” that have impacted your or your family's life?
 - Think of a time that you hear someone say that they “pulled themselves up by their bootstraps.” knowing what you now know about the “bootstraps narrative”, how would you respond in the same situation.

Dr. Brady asked members of both groups (A and B) to share their perspectives and interpretations of the text in relation to the guiding questions.

Dr. Brady introduced the “Connect/extend/challenge” protocol

- Connect - how are the ideas and information presented connected to what you already know?
- Extend: What new ideas did you get that extended or pushed your thinking in new directions?
- Challenge: what is still challenging or confusing for you to get your mind around? What questions or wonderings do you now have?
- Dr. Brady modeled answers to the questions and then participants shared their responses.
- In closing on the text, Dr. Brady asked the participants if there were any final thoughts or any themes from the book that weren't discussed but would like to share. Participants posed their thoughts to the larger group.
- Dr. Brady summarized the work for the day and asked the participants to consider the implications of these topics for schools and children.
 - Different challenges were shared (definitions, messaging, bullying, different developmental levels, adults modeling the importance of working together on these important topics, etc.).

Dr. Brady closed the meeting at 8:00 PM

Next meeting agenda:

- Begin with “Danger of Single Story (video)”
- NYS Framework for Culturally Responsive Teaching

Next meeting at November 9, 2022