

WI
West Islip School District

Equity Committee Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 13, 2023
Beach Street Middle School - Room 108 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. Welcome Back

Dr. Romanelli and Mrs. Morrison welcomed all committee members to the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was overviewed.

Information related to the four focus areas (welcoming and affirming environment, high expectations and rigorous instruction, inclusive curriculum and assessment, and ongoing professional development) that the committee will utilize to advance its work and establish goals was reintroduced and distributed to all committee members.

Committee members were provided time to read through the information provided. The information for each of the focus areas was then discussed. Committee members shared their perspectives on how the four focus areas may relate to West Islip.

Adding students to the committee was suggested. Having teacher representation from every building was suggested.

Next, committee members were provided with post-it notes to partake in the following “Glows and Grows” activity. For each focus area they were asked to note on green post-its what the district is doing well (glows) ... and to note on orange post-its what the district may want to consider delving deeper into (grows).

II. Focus Areas: West Islip “Glows & Grows”

*The following information was shared and discussed by committee members during the “Glows & Grows” portion of the meeting.

✓ Welcoming and Affirming Environment:

Glow	Grow
<p>SEL Programs: Start with Hello, P.S. I Love You Day, Wellness Day; Proactive teachers that help kids from falling behind; Student recognition is strong; Inclusive and non-judgemental; Close relationships with students and families; Buildings feel welcoming; Many students, staff and families are culturally sensitive and inclusive; Special Education opportunities at Beach Street; Leadership opportunities for students.</p>	<p>Increased focus on mental health; Help minority students feel more welcome, included and supported; Using cultural identities as a vehicle for teaching and learning; Surveying students more often in regard to their thoughts and feelings; More student voice; Consequences for students demonstrating a non-welcoming attitude; Special Education; Continuing to learn how to have difficult conversations on topics where everyone might not agree; Help not involved stakeholders to have a voice; Supporting marginalized/left out students by providing surveys that offer parents/students the opportunity to share barriers that they may face; Increase cultural experiences.</p>

✓ High Expectations and Rigorous Instruction:

Glow	Grow
<p>Introduction of Mastery Learning; Focus on growth mindset; Viable project based learning course at middle school level; Middles Helping Littles; EdCamp; Student Council; Teachers pushing kids to rise up; High expectations and rigorous instruction (AP, IB, etc.).</p>	<p>Making Mastery Learning more consistent across the district. Goal should be learning, not grades; Keeping high expectations for all while giving everyone the support tools to get there; High expectations for kids that can't meet goals; Fast tracking all kids when they aren't ready; Fostering taking academic risks without feeling inadequate; Mental health education; Special education - increase opportunities for students and make sure they have the supports they need for success; Making sure that barriers are not present for taking higher level courses or being a part of a club.</p>

✓ Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment

Glow	Grow
<p>Celebrating disability awareness month; Addressing mental health is done well with the programs and staff in place; Elementary experiences the most diversity; Restorative practices used to support student discipline; Buddy class activities and mainstreaming for Special Education students; IB, CAS and student service opportunities.</p>	<p>Mastery Learning across all disciplines; Increased opportunities to provide students with exposure to cultures, holidays, traditions, etc.; Explore Seal of Civic Readiness; More culturally diverse teachers; Expand text options; Update SEL curriculum; Increased inclusivity/ overall opportunities for special education students; Make sure that certain populations are not unfairly targeted for disciplinary measures; Diversify staff; Student friendly design of curriculum and assessments</p>

✓ Ongoing Professional Learning

Glow	Grow
<p>Many opportunities for staff PD; EdCamp - Lifelong learners in West Islip; Student centered inquiry based instruction; Elementary teachers are receptive to various instructional practices;</p>	<p>Training on critical conversations in the classroom; Ongoing cultural sensitivity training for faculty and staff; Increased student relatable assemblies; Special Education; Increased focus on summer reading programs and training for staff; More teacher feedback needed for "what" is needed.</p>

III. Discussion:

✓ Establishment of Subcommittees

Based on the Glows & Grows activity, the following areas were identified for Subcommittee work:

#1: Student and family voice/ Overcoming barriers/Creating a survey for parents, students and staff in regard to barriers faced/ Continued mental health expansion at all levels.

#2: Explore conversations and resources to identify areas of strength and those in need of improvement/ Special Education advocacy ... Are special education students able to have the same opportunities as others...Are all levels (elementary, middle and high school) being supported appropriately? How to support students/parents in working with multiple teachers at the secondary level? ... Get teacher, student and parent perspective/ Create culture that is receptive to feedback.

#3: Staff may need increased guidance on how to best address topics that may be controversial to some/ Guide for educators to discuss difficult topics/ Willingness to have critical conversations.

✓Committee Expansion

An opportunity for additional district stakeholders to join the committee was presented at the DEI Parent Academies in January and February. Twenty (20) stakeholders indicated interest. They will be added to the committee and invited to attend the March 22, 2023 meeting.

✓Next Steps ...

At the March 22, 2023 meeting, subcommittees will be created and their focus clearly delineated.

IV. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Beach Street Middle School - LMC