



# MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Nov 30 @ 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Seattle Municipal Tower (700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave)  
Floor 17 – Room 1756

## Goals for the meeting:

- Get to know each other
- Gain better understanding of Seattle School District
- Explore ways that SYC can work with Seattle School District this year

## Discussion Item:

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### Check-in & Youth Commissioner Announcements

Leila opened up the meeting with the 'two truths and a lie' activity. Um... did you know that Jess has his own You Tube [station](#).. what?

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### Discussion on Education with Representatives from the Seattle School District

Jess opened the discussion by having youth commissioners introduce themselves to the guest presenter, Abraham Rodriguez-Hernandez, from the Seattle School District. Abraham works in the Race and Equity Division within the district. He specifically works with Seattle Schools to establish and support [Racial Equity Teams](#). His role is to help prepare teachers to incorporate racial equity in their teaching. They incorporate science in their teaching (i.e. psychological response to micro aggressions) with the goal of making students feel like they belong. He also helps to identify where there have been negative impacts for students of color and strategies that would mitigate those impacts. Their focus is on what does Seattle Schools need to do to better prepare students. "How do we as educators change the system?" This is a shift from 'blaming the student.' How can schools and instructors create an environment where students maximize their peak learning potential. This is also a shift away from punitive actions that remove students from classroom to an approach that restores the relationship (for ex. If a teacher and student have a flare up, how do you restore that relationship versus having the student be at odds with the teacher the entire year.) So far, 30 of the 90 Seattle Schools are participating in the program. There are in the third year of the program and bring on a new cohort of 10 schools annually.

### Question & Answer

- *Is training different in schools where there are a majority of students of color?* Abraham shared research that has shown that students of color perform better in schools that are more racially-diverse. Statistics have shown that 1/3 of English-speaking males of color are placed in special ed classes

- *Would students be invited to join their school's Racial Equity Team?* Yes, it is very much a desire for student voice to guide the priorities of the RETs. Student involvement would look different depending on age.
- *Is the Ensuring Educational & Racial Equity Institute classes open to students also?* Yes, they are open to all. The next class will be on Dec 2 (Abraham will follow up with more information)
- *How do you measure impact of this program?* How do you know if it is working? First of all, they track attendance and participation for the RETs. They send out surveys to gauge the school climate. For ex, one of the early findings is the role that 'feeling like you belong' plays in student performance (for ex. 'Would someone know if you were missing?').
- *What are some examples of the types of strategies that RETs work to develop in teachers to improve school climate?* It ranges from school to school, but can be small things like pronouncing student's names correctly, standing outside of the classroom to welcome students.

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## Statement of Solidarity

This would not be a reaction to the election, but a statement of support for students/people targeted by racism. The group brainstormed the target audience and method of sharing. Statement could live on SYC website but wouldn't necessarily reach a lot of people. What are ways to share statement with broader community?

Also, there was discussion around what 'support' should look like. Would there be actionable items that demonstrate support or would this be more of a sentiment for now. Many felt that the committee projects were still being developed so wouldn't be ready to tie in to the statement just yet.

Catherine will compile ideas and write up a draft statement.

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## Committee Follow-up

We did not have any time to work in committees. Below are some potential project ideas to consider.

- *Public Safety Committee:*
  - Jeron Gates ([Jeron.Gates@seattle.gov](mailto:Jeron.Gates@seattle.gov)) – re: Learning Circles. Would you be open for meeting with Jeron? Who will take point on communicating with Jeron?
  - Anthony Shoecraft – Dec 17 Youth/Police Peacemaking Circle event. How would you like to be involved? Who will take point on communicating with Anthony?
- *Education/Schools:*
  - Dwane Chappelle, Director of Department of Education and Early Learning would like to meet with you. Who would like to take point on contacting Mr. Chappelle? ([Dwane.Chappelle@seattle.gov](mailto:Dwane.Chappelle@seattle.gov))
  - Connect with Abraham Rodriguez-Hernandez from Seattle Schools to learn more about RETs
- *Homelessness/Housing Affordability:*

- Would any of you be willing to write a quick summary/blogpost about Tiny: Streetwise Revisited screening?
- Dec 8, from 6 – 7:30 pm - Solid Ground Discussion on Rapid Rehousing (<https://www.solid-ground.org/events/housing-forum/>)

### **Potential Ideas for SYC:**

- Would SYC be up for hosting an “Ask the Mayor” segment for the Seattle Channel? Can you collect questions from peers to ask Mayor Murray?
- Would SYC be up for hosting a “Council Connections” segment for the Seattle Channel? Can you collect questions from peers to ask Councilmembers?
- Nationwide issues impacting youth?

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## **Announcements & Opportunities**

- **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Leadership Summit**

**Saturday, December 3rd**

11:00am – 5:00pm (10:30am check-in & 5-6pm OPTIONAL social time)

Tukwila Community Center

- Are you planning to come? RSVP by emailing me to confirm by Tuesday, November 22nd. So far, Kaileah, Clarissa, Carter, Becky, Victoria, Ziah have expressed interest in attending.
- Do you need a ride?

- **Upcoming Meetings**

- Dec 7 Meeting – Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim hosting us in the Norm B. Rice Room
  - FYI, WE WILL BE GETTING A GROUP PICTURE! PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFOT TO BE THERE!
- Jan 4 Meeting – Councilmember Tim Burgess

- **Other Opportunities to check out:**

- SPS is accepting applications for the [K-5 Gender Identity Material Task Force](#).
- [Girls in Science High School Program](#) is accepting applications! Jan-Mar 2017 Paleobotany. Deadline is December 15.
- Check out the Washington State Legislature Senate [Page Program](#)!
- Reading Partners needs [volunteers](#) for their high-need tutoring blocks.
- Best Starts for Kids is sending 12,000 random [surveys](#) to families. They need help connecting with families of color or limited-English speaking families. [Email](#) or call UW at 1-888-313-9575.

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## **Action Items**

- Follow up with your committee members about above ‘committee follow-up’ items
- In January, Jenny will take a break from inviting speakers so that you have time to dedicate to project development. Promise.