



City Administration

DATE: July 12, 2021
FROM: Jason Tomanek, Assistant City Administrator
ITEM: Human Relations Committee Report

REQUEST:

Please accept this report at the July 19, 2019 Human Relations Committee’s regular meeting. I will be out of the office the week of July 19th; I have prepared the following information to support the continued efforts to engage student liaisons and updating the current Human Relations Committee logo.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the June 21, 2021 Human Relations Committee (HRC) meeting the Committee discussed a variety of efforts to help engage students in Bismarck and to develop a program to foster relationships between the HRC and high school students in the community. The purpose of the activities will be to provide opportunities for students to become aware of the HRC and its mission to help educate and promote diversity and inclusion in addition to offering experiences and programs to help support the mission of the Bismarck Public School District (BPS).

To help make connections to key stakeholders and staff within the school district I met with Superintendent Dr. Jason Hornbacher on June 28, 2021. We discussed the opportunity to engage students and faculty in a mutually-beneficial manner to support identified goals of the HRC and BPS. The topics discussed included raising students’ awareness of the HRC’s mission and goals, engaging student liaisons, the HRC’s annual poetry and essay contest, and the desire to work with students from the Career Academy to help design and develop an updated logo for the HRC’s use.

During our conversation, it became evident that the City of Bismarck’s Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan of BPS have areas of overlap where identified goals and initiatives could be achieved through direct correlation and focused efforts between BPS and the HRC. Dr. Hornbacher indicated a strong desire to facilitate connections and conversations with key faculty within BPS. In the weeks ahead, Dr. Hornbacher will be

reaching out to select individuals to help facilitate these connections between the City of Bismarck Administration Department and the HRC. I will begin to share information with these individuals to help build a foundation for the students' and HRC's efforts toward achieving the established goals. BPS staff from the Career Academy, the Indigenous People Advisory Committee (IPAC) and the Teaching Learning Academy (TLA) will be contacted by Dr. Hornbacher to help get the project started. Dr. Hornbacher indicated that he and I should reconnect at the end of July to ensure communications between myself and select individuals within BPS have begun.

If the HRC is supportive of this process, I would be happy to continue to serve as the point-person for BPS to help facilitate these efforts during the formation process. Once connections between City and Schools staff has been made, I would recommend inviting key BPS staff to a future HRC meeting to further discuss goals, objectives and understanding between both organizations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive the report and direct staff on the desired action, if any.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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