

## DEIJ Community Group Meeting Notes

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Attendance:** Dr. Jim Morse, Kristin Forselius, Giana Gelsey, Rheanna Cote, Trisha Hall, Val Wolfsen, Denise Day, Caroline Sterndale, Kate Zimar, Lucy Zimar, Rachael Blansett

*Convened at 6:09pm*

### **CHECK-IN QUESTION: What is one thing that brought you joy this summer?**

Kristin swam; Trish rode her boat around the bay; kate got to go to western NY and spend time with family; Lucy went on her first mission trip in Ohio; Jim practiced retirement in July and visited grandchildren, Caroline got to spend time with family; Giana went to Cape Cod; Rheanna spent time with family, cousins, and traveling around; the students are bringing Val joy and she's made a commitment to work differently and take time on weekends to be present with family; Denise went to Great Basin national park

### **UPDATES:**

Interfaith is having an info session about their work with refugees and certain roles impacting immigration; kristin is still working on immigration timeline with OREJ; on Indigenous Peoples Day, there will be a live reading event of Columbus's journal entries called "Columbus in His Own Words;" Jim attended the annual BIPOC fest in Portsmouth over the weekend; Gen Brown and Jim gave presentation on Communication practices through a DEIJ lens; OR Community Read set to kick off in January, planning on reading Poverty by America and Demon Copperhead; Caroline is searching for MS representatives; Seacoast Outright is hosting their Halloween party for MS/HS students on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at Community Church

### **GROUP LOGISTICS:**

Many could not attend this meeting due to conflicts; going to maintain 6pm in the HS Library, but switching to Mondays on a monthly basis

### **NEW YEAR, NEW FOCUS:**

Rachael shared new direction for the group citing the group could be a space for community building and learning rather than solely action; the group wasn't utilized as much this past year and the actions seemed a bit "lost;" going to focus on the learning and growing aspect of the group where each month we will focus on a different DEIJ topic, share resources, and discuss; we will do one action-based item this year; hoping to put on a community program/forum/educational opportunity in the spring; potential topics could be immigration, LGBTQIA+ 101, or how to make ORCSD a more accepting community; will decide and finalize at next meeting

Rheanna participated in cross-class dialogues as a professional development opportunity where they discussed class and classism; she will share resources with us to review and discuss in our next meeting

*Meeting closes at 7:40 pm*