

Board Highlights - August 22, 2017

At our professional development day last Wednesday, Alison Park of Blink Consulting led us through a morning of vital conversations about equity, identity and diversity. Take-aways included:

Because disparate educational experiences and outcomes are the norm, we need to notice those disparities in our own communities. • We need to be able to name the experiences of different groups of students and surface stereotypes, biases and prejudices that shape perception and practice. • We need to focus our efforts on what we have the ability to impact. • We need to effect change on the individual, community and institutional levels.

We will continue to work with Alison to focus our efforts to empower school culture and structure to maximize equitable outcomes, building on work done by a Bacich team last year, and the group of seven who attended Harvard's equity institute in July.

On Wednesday afternoon, we all became learners again in an activity we called "smart is something you can get". Teachers and staff chose from 11 offerings ranging from golf to rowing to birdwatching to singing to guitar and spent two hours as students. They were asked to pick a class that was truly something they didn't know how to do. The feedback has been fascinating.

Construction and gearing up for the next Parcel Tax measure are the focus of our work. TBWB, our political consultants, are preparing a survey with Godbe Research, to assess our voters' thoughts about our district, the programs funded by the Parcel Tax, and the tolerance for levels of funding.