Working on Racial Equity In A Diverse Public School

Who Knows Your Story?
Whose Story Do You Know?
My Board Story

• Board Terms
  – 2012-16
  – 2016-20
• Current Board President
• Longstanding commitment to equity in education
First Term Accomplishments

- Led community retreat on school climate
- Focused Board on implementing restorative practices
- Hired Superintendent equipped to address equity & achievement needs of students
- Oversaw pilot projects on peer mentoring and social emotional learning
- Approved expanded student support services
- Promoted transparency in communications to district residents
- Approved filming of documentary focused on racial equity
Why seek re-election?

• Improve equitable, quality instruction
• Nurture student leadership and advocacy
• Ensure that all students benefit from a rigorous education where they feel supported and equipped for post-secondary success
• Set financial priorities for elements essential for a high quality learning environment
The Documentary

America to me
"America to Me" Trailer
After “America To Me”

- NYT’s Race Related Town Hall
- Speaking Common Language
  - Board workshops
  - Community conversations
- Empowering Student Leaders

Town Hall and Panel Discussion
Sunday, November 4, 6-9 p.m.
Oak Park and River Forest High School Little Theatre
Tickets are required for the theatre.
This event will be live-streamed to an overflow room and will be posted online. Details to follow.

Free subscription at:
https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/race

The New York Times Race/Related
Student Voice

• Students Advocating For Equity
• S.A.F.E. GOAL 2018-2020
  – To create a curriculum that fosters open discussion on uncomfortable topics, and goes deeper than just the slavery/oppression topics in class
  – Create workshop- “Black and Brown Women Speaking in White Spaces”
What's Your Story?

HONESTY

• How do I describe myself?
• How do others see me?
• What makes me unique?
• In what situations am I most comfortable?
• How honest am I with myself about my biases and prejudices?
Who do you see?

• Context
• Perspective
• Listen
Valuing Relationships

- Listen for understanding
- Accept that everyone’s story is valid
- Admit ignorance - “I don’t know, can you help me understand?”
- Challenge assumptions and preconceived notions based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation - Notice how you react to certain people or situations
What's Your Commitment?

• Time
• Presence
• Standing in discomfort
• Make meaningful connections