

Highlights of Re-Imagine Agendas

1 | First Youth Only Meeting

Warm welcoming on how ReImagine Education is an opportunity for youth and adults to work together to identify recommendations that could be implemented to close the equity gap and address systemic racism in our schools here in Maine.

Also discussed how schools predicate themselves on cultural awareness as a means to achieve racial harmony.

2 | First Youth/Adult Meeting

Focused on establishing a Youth adult partnership and looked at the main recommendations that youth created at the kickoff meeting to share with adults.

A student said, "I would change to have a more honest educational experience. It has been fabricated to be more happy, and it hasn't been an accurate description of our history.

3 | Second Y/O Meeting

Learning ways youth and adults can collaboratively work together in implementing anti racist practices within our respective schools.

- Adults in this space must be responsible to move anti racist practices forward in an active and transformational way.
- Intergenerational: separate work that has to be done

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4 Second Y/A Meeting

Fishbowl discussion around how adults are both struggling and lacking in figuring out ways to implement anti-racism in either their school/department/work/district.

Quote: “Speak about how equity is the water in which we swim, it’s not a separate piece it’s everything around us.”

5 Third Y/O Meeting

Reviewed the different responses and challenges that adults discussed at the previous Y/A meeting around anti-racist practices.

- One student shared, “ Keep students updated on what your doing, ask for their help, but don’t make them do all the work, show your students that this is your top priority”

6 Third Y/A Meeting

Understanding how when we implement these anti racist practices and recommendations, there needs to be a commitment level on adults without the onus being on youth.

- Participated in a Resmaa embodiment exercise to help us identify how Anti Racism is a practice and not a goal.

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7 | Fourth Y/O Meeting

Youth explored the progression and growth of Re-Imagine.

One student said “ I think there needs to be growth with finding out how these conversations turn into action. I think it’s also important how we can take what we’re learning from these conversations and applying it to an actual school setting.

8 | Fourth Y/A Meeting

Analyzed three of the nine principles from the “ People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond. The three being Analyzing power, Undoing racism, and Maintaining accountability.

Youth + Adults participated in an introspective journaling on internal experiences with the Reimagine progress.

9 | Fifth Y/O Meeting

Youth processed the last meeting together, and talked about what they believe accountability looks like for adults.

A student said, “as students we shouldn’t be spending our time doing this. Our role is to learn- curriculum is supposed to be inclusive... [the adults] should take what they’ve learned from this and continue forward, calling out their peers, and changing the curriculum, and being the big voice in their meetings with their superiors.”

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10 | Fifth Y/A Meeting

Explored how we can start to implement and finalize the recommendations so that they can be made available for the Maine DOE and the Equity Committee of the PPS department.

- Posed the question of what needs to happen after Aug 26th to continue sustained efforts of addressing systematic racism.

11 | Sixth Y/O Meeting

Discussed an interest in engaging intergenerationally with BIPOC parents to work on anti-racism. Expressed apprehensiveness over what the follow through will be with implementation of anti-racist practices moving forward.

One person asked, “How are adults planning to get these anti-racist messages across effectively if their schools are going online?”

12 | Sixth Y/A Meeting

Talked more deeply about what help they needed to implement the recommendations. Discussed what it means to stand up to institutions as youth and adults, as well as how to maintain accountability over time.

Discussed what was most important to share during Sept. 2nd’s meeting with a wider range of adults who are in positions of power.

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13 | Seventh Y/A Meeting

Met with a wider group of adults (invited principals, superintendents, and classroom teachers, and invited Maine Public to celebrate the collaborative work we've done together)

3 Youth shared powerful statements about their experiences, and why Re-Imagine is important to them. Discussed how to sustain the work long-term. Shared commitments.

14 | Eighth Y/O Meeting

Celebration Meeting for Youth socially distance outside. Met on a grass field, connected in person, and played a game.

Ate dinner while watching a tv series projected on a screen outside.

15 | Moving Forward

Youth and adults have since taken the recommendations to other spaces in their lives. The recommendations act as a living document. Already it has helped pushed forward work in the Gorham School District, alongside the work moving forward in Portland.

Reimagine continually works to inform the YEPs program, helping to steer what work they will do this Fall.