

MONTHLY REPORT

The Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education



IN THIS ISSUE

**WHO IS THE MCEE?
OUR CALL TO ACTION
AND HEALING**

A STUDENT STORY

**TWO
MISCONCEPTIONS
ABOUT EQUITY**

**SUCCESS, ACTIONS
ITEMS AND
RESOURCES**

Who is the MCEE?

Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education (MCEE) is a student led organization working collaboratively with alumni and parent supporters who advocate for equitable education in the Minnetonka School District.

The MCEE was founded in 2020 as a call to action in response to police brutality throughout the country. In these deaths, our students saw their own personal experiences mirrored back to them when they had been the victims of microaggressions in the classroom, verbal abuse from their classmates and erasure of their cultural contributions to this country.

When one student spoke up the community was mobilized. A series of listening sessions transformed into the MCEE's 11 Imperatives. In these imperatives the MCEE argued for systematic policy changes, stating our role as an educational resource. In the MCEE our imperatives hope to inspire and equip students with critical thought, inclusivity and resilience necessary to resist fear and oppressive manipulation.



As a student led organization, the MCEE is a brave space for students to practice their leadership, verbal/written communication, relationship building and specialized skill set (such as graphic design). To uplift marginalized voices, the MCEE ensures that the CORE leadership centers BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+, Neurodiverse, Disabled, Immigrant, Religious Minorities etc. voices.

A Student's Story

Read student stories like this one on the instagram accounts to the right.



@BIPOC_AT_TONKA
@TONKA.LGBTQ
@SPED.MENTALHEALTH.TONKA

a group of boys targeted me and one said some things. he said "maybe if you get some f* normal body wash i'll talk to you". his friends contacted me through snapchat and instagram to tell me how disgusting and smelly i was, and after this event they would come up to me during school to make fun of my race and my ethnic nose.***

Class of 2023

a group of boys targeted me and one said some things. he said "maybe if you get some f* normal body wash i'll talk to you". his friends contacted me through snapchat and instagram to tell me how disgusting and smelly i was, and after this event they would come up to me during school to make fun of my race and my ethnic nose.***

Class of 2023

Two Misconceptions about Equity

1. **SITUATION:** A parent comes up to you and says, "**Privilege and Oppression Are Just Excuses**"

- There are portions of the Minnetonka community who claim "privilege" and "oppression" are tools marginalized students and families use to avoid responsibilities. This cognitive distortion is an example of the Fundamental Attribution Error (FAE). FAE is when individuals are more likely to attribute negative actions to another's personal characteristics instead of situational factors, while attributing negative actions about themselves on situational factors instead of personal.

HOW TO CHALLENGE: YOU CAN ASK, "ARE YOU USING FAE? HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT HISTORICAL SYSTEMS OF DISCRIMINATION? DO YOU KNOW HOW THESE SYSTEMS WERE PERPETUATED IN EDUCATION AND STILL EXIST TODAY?"

2. **SITUATION:** A teacher shares why they chose not to participate in cultural responsive trainings: "**Equity is For Some, Not All; You're Taking Away My History**".

- There are Minnetonka families who believe equity is 'indoctrination'. That could not be further from the truth. Equity pedagogy teaches critical thinking, perspective taking/empathy and assertive communication and thoughtful argumentation.
- Learning about different cultures and historical perspectives challenges preconceived assumptions and mainstream oppressive narratives. Students are not taught to agree with the material class, but instead are encouraged to be independent thinkers and think of their own conclusion. Thus, not every student will think the same. That's the point!
- For example, incorporating "Afrocentricity" does not advocate against Eurocentrism. Molefi Kete Asante, an Afrocentric scholar, explains Afrocentricity is about centering lessons involving Black people in the perspective of African values. In that he does not advocate for the erasure of another's cultural contributions.

HOW TO CHALLENGE: YOU CAN ASK: HOW DOES TEACHING STUDENTS MORE ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES, SKILLS, AND KNOWLEDGE BASES HARMFUL? DON'T YOU THINK TO PREPARE A CHILD FOR LIVING IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY AND INCREASING INTEGRATED WORLD, THEY NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES AND EXPERIENCES?



Successes So Far

- A petition a student leader created mobilized thousands
- The creation of our 11 Imperatives
- Our first rally with over a hundred attendees
- Student leaders won their fight attending the CSB meeting
- MCEE featured in KSTP's News Special and other media platforms
- MCEE grows on social media
- The MCEE Core Leadership reaches more than 30+ members, and has 600+ supporters



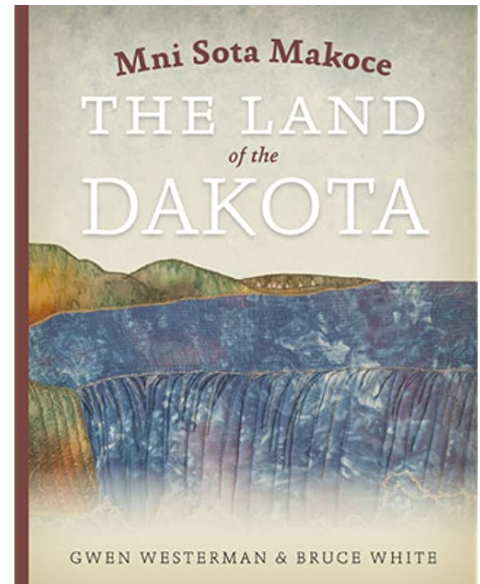
FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



@EQUITABLEMTKA

Take Action!

1. **Educate yourself.** Purchase a book, listen to a podcast. Attend a training.
2. **Email.** Advocate to the School Board and Dr. Peterson about equity issues in Minnetonka.
3. **Join the MCEE.** Email us at equitablemtka@gmail.com
4. **Walk the Talk.** Have tough conversations about race with strangers, loved ones and acquaintances.
5. **Donate.** Give time/energy/resources to a nonprofit fighting oppression today.



Grab the book mentioned in today's rally

THE MCEE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S RALLY.