

MONTHLY REPORT

The Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education



IN THIS ISSUE

**WHO IS THE MCEE?
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

STUDENT STORIES

**MONTHLY COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

**MCEE MOBLIE
LIBRARY**

**SUCCESS, ACTION
ITEMS AND
RESOURCES**

Who Is the MCEE?

Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education (MCEE) is a student-led organization working collaboratively with alumni, parents and community supporters who advocate for equitable education in the Minnetonka School District. Formed after the murder of George Floyd, our group works to protect the educational rights of ALL students and provide community education on anti-racism, equity and allyship.

Student Spotlight



Solveig is a Minnetonka senior and recently joined the MCEE.

What prompted you to join the MCEE?

I'm really interested in studying societal inequality, especially racial inequality, with a focus on the effect of political actions on societies. The MCEE aligns with my values, but I'm also intrigued by the causal relationship between our actions and the community's response and how that plays into existing inequalities.

What skill set do you use in the MCEE?

Definitely listening and learning from others, as well as stepping forward and sharing my own knowledge and connections. The MCEE really embodies its fight for inclusivity within the group by supporting and championing each other's actions and ideas.

What other hobbies/activities do you have?

I love running, making art, and reading. For the past 6 months I've also been writing my extended essay on racism in American healthcare, which I'm almost done with!

Favorite book and why?

The Color Purple by Alice Walker. Celie's self-discovery and Shug's spirituality are really impactful and beautiful to me.

If you could share a meal with anyone, who would it be and what would you eat?

The Dalai Lama. I think he's adorable and awesome. And we would eat congee and mochi.

Student Stories

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



@BIPOC_AT_TONKA

@TONKA.LGBTQ

@SPED.MENTALHEALTH.TONKA

*slurs

I wore a crop top to school and was called the f-slur multiple times throughout the day by people in the hallway. Nothing was ever done about it despite me bringing it up to teachers and the Dean. Some of the other things I was called were whale, land whale, fat a**, fat gay whale, and many others. I was very disappointed as I was very proud of the outfit.

2021, he/him/his

Somebody called me a f and told me to read the bible after pushing me into a wall.**

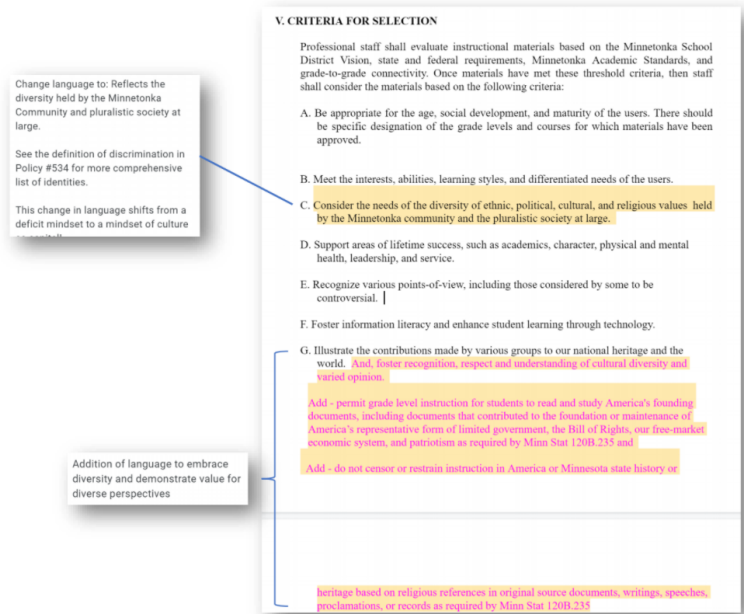
kids will also peek through the door to gsa meetings to see who is inside, then proceed to call them slurs.

2025, they/them

Monthly Committee Updates

Social Action

The Social Action team has been working hard to provide the Minnetonka School Board with policy suggestions. As part of Goal 2: Excellence and Belonging, the Board has pledged to conduct an in-depth review of district policies, using a lens of diversity, equity, inclusion and excellence. To support the district in achieving this goal we have been creating our own policy edits that align with the MCEE's Anti-Racist imperatives and presenting them to the Board with reasoning and evidence behind each edit. This hard work is paying off, and the Board has incorporated many of the MCEE's suggestions into their own policy edits.



Above. An example of one page of the many policy edits the Social Action team presented to the Minnetonka School Board.



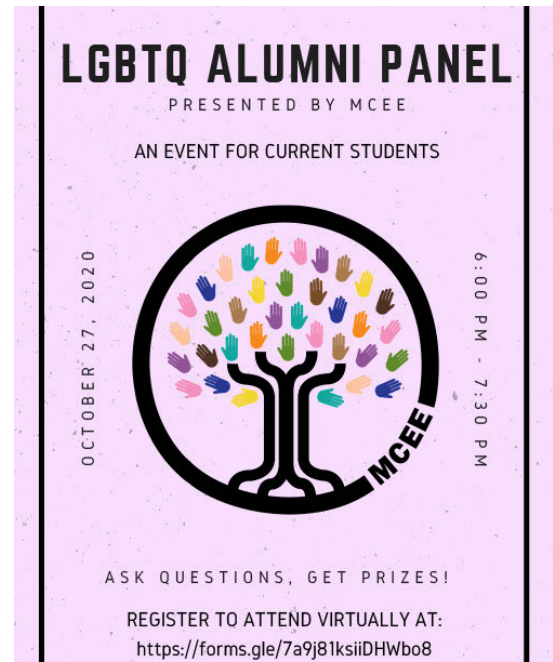
Above. Poster used to advertise the MCEE's first Community Discussion. The event had more than a dozen participants. Student leaders connected with community members, including parents and former Minnetonka educators.

Community Engagement

The Engagement Team conducted a Community Discussion on Nov 23 with the theme *Race and Racial Identity*. The discussion was led by student leaders Lena Pak and Ahlaam Abdulwali as they walked through exercises of self-reflection and encouraged free, open discussion. The event was well-liked by participants, and student leaders were praised for their eloquence and maturity. The Team also planned a Student Community Discussion for interested high/middle school students with the topic being *Anti-Racism and Allyship*.

Alumni Team

The Alumni Team has been hard at work creating events and opportunities for students. The LGBTQ+ Alumni Panel was extremely successful! The "Be the Bridge" program is also looking to hold an Intersectional feminism event for the Human Rights Club and a Professional Engagement event for the BIPOC STEM Club. Finally, the MCEE College Mentorship program is still up and running for interested high school seniors! Just contact our social media accounts for more information.



Above. The MCEE Alumni hosted an LGBTQ+ panel for high school students which included topics like discrimination, relationships and public policy.

Research Team

The Research Team created our new Equity Starter Kit #2: Human Rights. The Kit covers four topics: Poverty, Inaccessibility, Environmental Racism, and White Violence. Check out our social media to learn more! The Research Team also wants to put a plug in for our Mobile Library. Want to learn more about equity? Feel free to contact us and browse our selection of great reads.

Below. The MCEE Research Team created December's Starter Equity Kit: Human Rights. It examines four topics: White Violence, Poverty, Accessibility and Environmental

Racism. The Kit includes podcasts, films, books, advocacy organizations and articles. Look on our social media to learn more!

MCEE EQUITY STARTER KIT: HUMAN RIGHTS

MCEE Equity Starter Kit #2: Human Rights

December's equity kit examines human rights. The M.C.E.E. utilized the United Nations' "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights". We have focused on four topics: Housing, Accessibility, Environmental Racism, and Protection from Hatred/Hostility. We have also decided to focus on human rights issues located here in Minnesota.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10th, 1948. It is a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

Read. Watch. Reflect
#equitableMtka

MCEE EQUITY STARTER KIT: HUMAN RIGHTS

Week 4: Environmental Racism

Book

- A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind by Harriet A. Washington
- Youth to Power Your Voice and How to Use It by Jamie Margolin

Social Justice Movement

- Bigger Than Water
- Landback
- Stop Line 3
- Read about the Walz Administration Failure to Protect MN Water Bodies and Listen to Native Water Protectors

STOP LINE 3

Film

- Gather ** - Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Food Chains - US Farm Slave Labor

Local Non-Profit

- Urban Farming and Garden Alliance
- Urban Farm & Garden Alliance

Podcast

- For The Movement: Environmental Racism: It's A Thing | Flint Mayor Dr. Karen Weaver and Mustafa Ali
- Karen Weaver and Mustafa Ali
- Learn about the scope of what is considered environmental racism

Advocacy Organization

- MN 350
- The Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED)

Social Media Team

MCEE Theme Weeks were a success on our social media platforms. The November themes were:

- **How to Reduce Prejudice (Imperative 2)**
- **BIPOC Teachers (Imperative 3)**
- **Hate Symbols in Dress Code (Imperative 4)**
- **Autism**

Most social media posts in a given week relate somehow to that week's theme. Fridays are reserved for promoting local activism efforts or community organizing to increase equity in education. A special treat in November has been the posting of a variety of speeches given by various MCEE students and members. These speeches highlight the weekly Imperative theme and the personal reasons why students are demanding change now.

**FOLLOW OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR UPDATES
AND CONTENT!**



@EQUITABLEMTKA



Above. The Al-Farooq Youth and Family Center of Bloomington, which was bombed in 2017 by a White Supremacist Militia. The MCEE highlighted the incident as CAIR MN (Council on American-Islamic Relations) recently called for the men to be charged with a hate crime. During our Hate Symbols in Dress week, we highlighted the rise of hatred in America, especially those against BIPOC, Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ people. Look at the statistics above from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Below. An infographic about adultification bias. Adultification bias refers to BIPOC female students being perceived as more adult-like than their White peers. It was posted to the MCEE's social media accounts to demonstrate the need for educator anti-bias training.



The MCEE Mobile Library

The MCEE members have been collecting books that form the basis of our content creation and imperatives. Now, we would like to share those books with you!

What is a Mobile Library?

The Mobile Library is a service MCEE will offer to the larger Minnetonka community. Followers and supporters can peruse our collection of books, make a request, and we will deliver it!

How does the Mobile Library work?

Participants will look over our list of books here* and then make a request to the MCEE through our Facebook messenger or Instagram account. If the book is available for check out, we will deliver that book the following Saturday. An individual can only make one request at a time. The reader can keep the book for a maximum of 2-3 weeks before having to return it. In return, we ask that when you receive the book you post on social media tagging the MCEE.

What if I want to keep the book or keep it for longer?

If you weren't able to finish the book or want to keep the book indefinitely, we want to apologize in advance. We want to keep books available for others to read and at the time want to keep wait periods at a minimum. Hopefully in the future we will attain enough books that we can loan out books for longer periods.

How do you deliver the books?

We provide a mobile service, so we drive! For safety during Covid-19, we get an address and drop off the book in your mailbox! For people who may live farther away, we are willing to mail the book to you as long as you mail it back.

What if I damage the book or lose it?

If you damage or lose a book, we ask that you replace it. A used copy from the internet is fine to replace it (we don't need a new one).

What if I don't want to share my mailing address?


We recognize not everyone wants to give their mailing address out. We are willing to meet at public locations to exchange books, but Covid-19 precautions must be followed. Meetings at public locations will only be made by special request for people concerned about safety.

M.C.E.E.
Mobile
Library

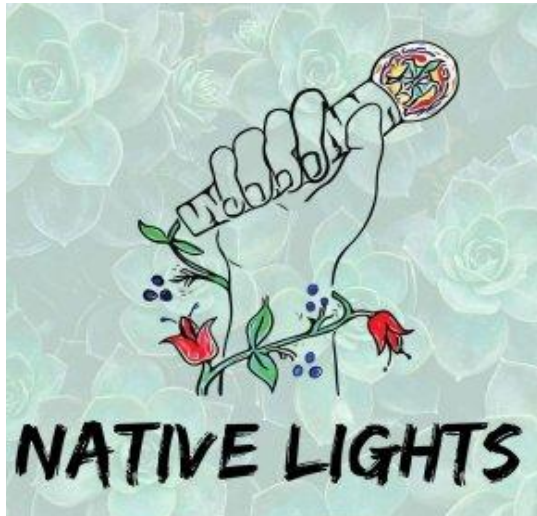
We want to share our collection of equity and anti-racism literature with you...

Peruse our selection, check out a book, and we'll deliver! (Or meet at a safe drop-off site!)




 @equitablemtka
  Minnetonka Coalition for Equitable Education
  equitablemtka@gmail.com

*Book list can be found at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z0UHxVzHy-LAg3KjK3cvbe5_Qbao27Izj55InDukXeY/edit#gid=0



Above. *Native Lights Podcast logo. Native Lights is a podcast that amplifies stories of people within Minnesota's native communities. "We explore the history, work, strength, and resiliency of Native people who are shaping the future while appreciating those who came before."* <http://ampers.org/minnesota-native-news/native-lights-podcast/>

Successes So Far

- The MCEE was influential in changing School District policies, which now reflect equitable language and processes
- The MCEE hosted an LGBTQ+ Alumni event and connected with local high school students
- MCEE student leaders hosted their first Community Discussion: *"Beginning to Talk About Race"*
- MCEE student leaders host their first Student Discussion: *"Anti-Racism and Allyship"*

Take Action!

1. **Listen.** Code Switch, Native Lights, and Louder than a Riot are great podcasts.
2. **Read.** Our reading list is included at the bottom of page 6!
3. **Email.** Advocate to the School Board and Dr. Peterson about equity issues in Minnetonka.
4. **Follow.** Accounts like @changingwomxn, @theunplugcollective, @btfacollective for art, empowerment, and education.
5. **Walk the Talk.** Have tough conversations about race with strangers, loved ones and acquaintances.

THE MCEE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES TO THE FIGHT FOR EQUITY!

*changing womxn
collective*



Above, the Changing Womxn Collective's logo. Find information, writing, and art online at: <https://changingwomxncollective.org>