



## **NMRSD Update**

### **Friday, July 9, 2021**

#### **Superintendent's Equity Advisory Board**

I am excited to announce that after months of working to identify opportunities to provide North Middlesex Regional School District staff with training around equity, the Advisory Board has selected Firefly Worldwide Incorporated out of New York to train our staff so that they are prepared to thoughtfully engage in discussions of equity in their classrooms.

As a member of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Working Group, I am committed to working with my colleagues to *develop and implement a long-term, state-wide, superintendent-driven strategy to address system and cultural barriers in our schools that prevent so many students and adults from knowing they, too, belong and will thrive. The goal is to support every school to model anti-racist practice, diversity, and inclusion that all of our students will learn and thrive.* In addition, the NMRSD School Committee voted, last fall, in favor of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Anti-Racism Resolution, which states: *We must ensure our own school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is anti-racist, that acknowledges that all lives cannot matter until black lives matter.*

Our work will commence this fall with Cheyenne Batista, the CEO and Founder of Firefly Worldwide (letsfirefly.com) who will be providing our opening day keynote to staff along with subsequent staff training sessions. This training will be spread out over three years.

#### **Critical Race Theory**

There have been several inquiries as of late regarding whether or not NMRSD intends to “teach” Critical Race Theory (CRT).

It is important to point out that CRT is not a curriculum, nor is it or has it been formally “taught” in NMRSD. However, as part of the equity work that will be taking place across the state, some of the ideas that make up CRT will be discussed during professional development and may come up during classroom discussions on topics like race and equity.

There has been a great deal of confusion around CRT and what it means. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees recently released a document entitled: *Understanding the Difference Between Critical Race Theory and Educational Equity*, which clearly outlines what CRT is and is not.

[https://masc.org/images/news/2021/MASC\\_CRT\\_2021.pdf](https://masc.org/images/news/2021/MASC_CRT_2021.pdf)

When it comes to NMRSD's curriculum, we follow the curriculum frameworks that are provided to us by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Materials are designed to develop students' critical thinking skills and issues around equity are a part of the curriculum. Our goal continues to be to provide our students with an education that is both relevant and rigorous so that when they graduate, they have a skill-set that will enable them to be successful in post-secondary studies, the armed forces, or the workforce.

### **Fall Parent/Caregiver Information Series**

This fall, NMRSD will be offering four (4) parent/caregiver information nights in the Performing Arts Center at NMRHS at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars:

***Tuesday, October 12th***

***Navigating the Common Application & Naviance  
NMRHS Guidance Team***

This presentation will be geared towards current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders parents/caregivers and their students who are planning on attending 2 or 4 year colleges.

***Tuesday, October 26th***

***How to Manage Teen Mental Health  
Dr. Dan Rosa***

This presentation will be geared towards parents/caregivers of middle and high school students. Dr. Rosa is a veteran clinical psychologist in the Chelmsford Public Schools and was instrumental in bringing in a K-12 team of clinical psychologists to the district. He has a private practice and has done presentations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

***Wednesday, November 3rd***

***Internet & Social Media Safety  
Katie Greer (klgeer.com)***

This presentation will be geared towards all parents/caregivers and students at both the middle and high school level. As we all realize, technology is

unavoidable and this presentation will help both adults and students better understand the Internet and social media. Katie has done presentations all over the country and has been featured in several national media outlets.

***Wednesday, November 10th***

***How Do We Create Safe & Welcoming Schools for All Students?***

***How Can We Support Our LGTBQ Students?***

***Jeff Perrotti***

This presentation will be geared towards parents/caregivers of all grade levels. Jeff is a renowned expert in the field of Gender Education - creating a Safe School Climate and the founding director of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning students.

**ESSER III Grant Update**

Thank you to all who responded to the survey. The survey data and district data confirmed that academic and mental health supports are critical areas for our students as we transition into the upcoming school year. The ESSER III grant will be used to support the identified areas. Other areas identified and considered for the grant include, tutoring, common planning time, and facilities improvement. Again, thank you for taking the time to provide input to the district.