

Manchester Essex Regional School District Student Coalition Against Racism (SCAR)

Initial SCAR meeting

October 15, 2020

- Initial meetings, through November 5, 2020, were dedicated to establishing group norms and going through the letter presented to School Committee and Administration. Areas of focus in the letter were:
 - Curriculum*
 - School Culture*
 - Discipline*
 - School Resource Officer*
 - Faculty & Administration*

Mission Statement Development

November 5, 2020

- As a group, we worked to create a strong and sustainable Mission Statement:
“Our mission is to further the diversification of our school culture. We aim to build a community where equity, access, and equality is present and sustainable for all.”

Civil Rights History and Martin Luther King, Jr.

December 2020 & January 2021

- In preparation for Martin Luther King Day, our discussions in December were centered primarily around the history of the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- These discussions were followed by a presentation to the school community in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 18, 2021
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H1tOhMSTCuZTFHQxqV7XJNShkBjHrciX/view?usp=sharing>

Meeting with Dr. Kenann McKenzie of the NAACP North Shore Branch

January 15, 2021

- I was fortunate enough to meet with Dr. McKenzie for upwards of an hour, where we had great discussions about her work and experience with advocacy and anti-racism efforts.
- We discussed ways for our students to get involved with in ways that would assist us in our mission and goals here in the Manchester and Essex communities.
- Dr. McKenzie was kind enough to invite our students to a student-led book and/or movie discussion based on the book/movie *"The Hate U Give"*

Instagram Page Creation: @mersd.scar

Mid-January, 2021

- Our students created a "new" Instagram page for our group that was for current students, as a previous page was being managed by alumni.
- The goals of our page were to spread awareness of our group and its activities, and to share and post content related to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and equality.
- Our initial posts garnered the majority of our followers and newer members, and the page currently has 100 followers.
- We do our best to update our page's story daily, sharing and re-sharing advocacy messages from many well-known influencers and accounts, such @naacpboston, @antiracismctr, @civilrightsorg, @blkivesmatter, @ckyourprivilege, and @theconsciouskid

Black History Month and NAACP North Shore Branch Student Organization

February, 2021

- The focus of our conversations and social media activity during the month of February was Black History Month.
- Resulting from my meeting with Dr. Kenann McKenzie, I was contacted by a student and founding member of the NAACP North Shore Branch, who reached out to invite our students to participate in a student advocacy organization she is creating.

Upcoming events and activities

- Our focus this month (March 2021) will center around BIPOC women in honor of Women's History Month.
- In upcoming meetings our group will be planning our first fundraising initiative, with our potential donee being *theconsciouskid.org* (*Anti-Racist Children's Book Education Fund*).
- On March 24, 2021, our group will attend the *Connections Conference - Listen, Learn, Act!: Fighting For Justice in our School Communities* which is being presented virtually by the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA).