

**WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: *IVA* **ATE:** October 8, 2019

TOPIC/TITLE: Travel Request/SHA/Logan Culbertson or Rhiannon Ashcraft
Travel Request/WCMS/Tracy Bruno, Kevin Hook, Hannah Eubanks, Shelby Kerns, JJ Viera
To Observe Restorative Justice Practices
Nashville, Tennessee
October 27-28, 2019

PRESENTER: Jimmy Brehm 

ORIGIN:

- ☐ TOPIC PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY (No board action required.)
☒ ACTION REQUESTED AT THIS MEETING
☒ ITEM IS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL
☐ ACTION REQUESTED AT FUTURE MEETING: (DATE)
☒ BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED BY
- ☐ STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION
☒ BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
☐ OTHER:

PREVIOUS REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

- ☒ NO PREVIOUS BOARD REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION
☐ PREVIOUS REVIEW OR ACTION
- ☐ DATE:
☐ ACTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per Board policy - prior approval required for overnight and out of state travel.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ELEMENTS:

Request Board approval for a SHA staff member, Logan Culbertson or Rhiannon Ashcraft, and WCMS principal and staff, Tracy Bruno, Kevin Hook, Hannah Eubanks, Shelby Kerns, and JJ Viera to visit Nashville, Tennessee, schools on October 27-28, 2019, to observe Restorative Justice practices, per the attached requests.

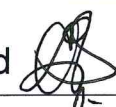
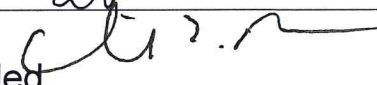
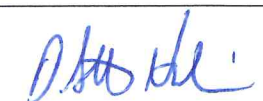
IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER REVIEW OR ACTION:

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: ☒ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended



**WOODFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS
OUT OF STATE OR OVERNIGHT
TRAVEL REQUEST**

INDIVIDUAL/STAFF REQUESTING TRIP:	Tracy Bruno, Kevin Hook, Hannah Eubanks, Shelby Kerns, JJ Viera
DATES OF TRIP:	Oct. 27 th and 28 th
TRIP TO:	Nashville, TN
METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION:	Car
ACCOMMODATIONS:	Hyatt Place Opryland
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE/ CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:	We are taking a group down to observe Restorative Justice practices. Our hope is to bring back some ideas on how to train our staff to keep students in the classroom that have non-violent offenses.
CONFERENCE AGENDA: SEE ATTACHMENT	
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS/SCHOOLS: (If more than one school, attach list of participants and their schools.)	5 participants-Woodford County Middle School
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$2,100
COST INCLUDES:	Lodging, mileage, meal per diem
FUNDING SOURCE:	0851053-0580-9600
FUND MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended 
PRINCIPAL/SUPERVISOR RECOMMENDATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended 
SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended 

Restorative Student Leaders

student-led

We research social problems affecting our lives & design solutions to those problems

restorative practices

a paradigm shift in school culture from one that is punitive to one that is restorative

team

we work together in small groups, committees, and as a whole team every day

contact us

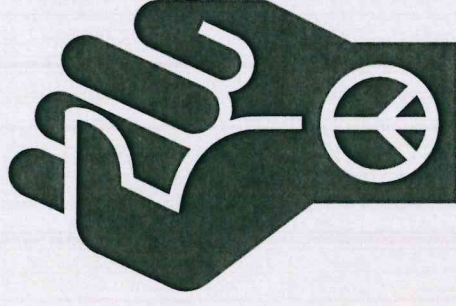
ghspeaceteam@gmail.com

laura.fittz@mnps.org

ellen.montgomery@mnps.org

social media

Instagram: @glenclyffpeaceteam
@hillsboroCORE



Restorative Student Leaders

Glenclyff Peace Team
& Hillsboro CORE

Glenciff Peace Team & Hillshoro CRT

how we prepare

Discover our personality types, conflict styles, and engage in team-building activities
Learn about the school-to-prison pipeline and other issues with typical discipline
Participate in official International Institute of Restorative Practices training

sightings

- Participated in student panel at U.S. Dept. of Education's Conference
- Presented a three MNPS Social-Emotional Learning Conferences
- Helped lead circle discussions with Vanderbilt Chancellor's Tour
- Spoke at 2018 + 2019 Dr. MLK March
- Featured twice on Nashville Public TV
- Featured on 90.3 WPLN
- Facilitated circles with every MNPS principal
- Spoke with legislators on Capitol Hill
- Spoke at the MNPS School Board
- Helped lead a training for other schools interested in developing Restorative Student Teams

restorative practices

Restorative Practices is a paradigm shift in school culture from one that is punitive to one that is restorative.

RP provides a framework to build classroom communities where people can work together to solve problems through authentic dialogue, coming to an understanding, and making things right.

youth participatory action research

An epistemology that "provides young people with opportunities to study social problems affecting their lives and then determine actions to rectify those problems"

(Cammarota + Fine, 2008)

what we do

After researching the problems we see around our school and our community, we work together to design solutions to those problems. Some of the things we've done are:

- Mentor and assist teachers with Restorative Practices
- Utilize the circle process in communicating concerns and suggestions with our administrations
- Visit other schools to demonstrate/assist with the Restorative Process
- Design + facilitate Solidarity Circles in response to difficult events + to build unity within our schools
- Assist in facilitating Small Impromptu Conferences & Restorative Circles when harm has occurred between students
- Partner with the MNPS Research and Evaluation team
- Partner with the Oasis Center & M.Ed. students at Vanderbilt's Peabody College

The Glenclyff High School Peace Team

Written by Ferdaws Sharhan, Anduga Lado, Juan Vazquez, & Sajad Al-Humaidi



The Peace Team is a group of unique, intelligent, and kind-hearted people who solve problems on a daily basis. We utilize Restorative Practices to listen to both sides of a conflict and help resolve it. We also find ways to explore ourselves and listen to others express themselves as well. We are always there to support each other and everybody out here.

At the beginning of the year, we learned about our personality types and conflict styles and we grew closer as a team. We also read *Just Mercy*, and we learned about mass incarceration in America, the school-to-prison pipeline, typical school discipline, and the alternative provided by Restorative Practices.

As we learn more about Restorative Practices, we learn how to restore situations and bring peace to them. Restorative Practices is a paradigm shift in school culture from one that is punitive to what that is restorative. For example, this is how we might utilize Restorative Practices in the Peace Team: Let's say a student barged into the room yelling and



using profanity because he had a disagreement with the teacher. He could follow one of us to a safe space and we would ask Restorative

Questions that help us get to the root issue. We would talk to both sides, and even get both the student and the teacher together (after they both calmed down) to work together to find a solution. This is a great example of the work we do here in the Peace Team because we listen to understand and solve problems together. One thing I love to say is don't do things FOR people or TO people, but WITH people.



We've accomplished a lot of things as a team. Every day as a class, we lead and participate in community circles where we get together and discuss multiple topics. The

topics can vary from a major event in the news to something as simple as how our weekend went. Recently, Juan and I created and facilitated a circle that was focused on music and how it impacts us. We use circles as a way to communicate

our thoughts, feelings, and ideas to gain more insight into how we are as people.

We also had the opportunity to mentor teachers at our school with utilizing circles in their classrooms, and we've designed and facilitated several solidarity circles to support, process,

and give information to those affected by various difficult events. A couple weeks ago, several of us attended the Mayor's Youth Summit and we were able to tell the Mayor about the issues affecting teens in Nashville.



One of the things we accomplished last year as a team is designing and facilitating a restorative circle with our school's administration. They gave us their point of view on how they see things as administrators, and we debated some topics. One of our suggestions was for our school to utilize a Restorative Center instead of In School Suspension. Now, we have a Restorative Center where students can calm down, talk it out, repair the harm, and learn from their mistakes! Another thing we did last year was make committees for certain projects we had. For example, we worked on making a t-shirt, planning breakfast, doing community art around the school, etc.



We are not just limited to our classroom; we have been featured on multiple platforms. The Peace Team participated in Nashville Public Television's *American Graduate* and Town Hall productions, we served on a panel at the Re-Thinking Discipline Conference, we have presented at the district SEL conference in the summer of 2017, we've visited students at Antioch Middle School and have mentored the Hillsboro High School CORE

team, we helped lead circle discussions on a Vanderbilt Chancellor's Tour, we have spoken at the 2018 MLK March, and we have recently been featured on 90.3 WPLN.



For the future, we would like to expand further outside of our classroom and get more involved throughout our school and beyond. That would include helping out the community by taking part in events like food drives, teaming with the Family Resource Center, hosting more community-building and conflict-resolving circles, and more.

If you would like to stay in touch with us, please follow us on instagram at @glenclyffpeaceteam and email us at ghspeaceteam@gmail.com.

Cliff Notes

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES | 2019 | END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER



THE GLENCLIFF PEACE TEAM

Glencliff's Peace Team is a group of student leaders co-designing and facilitating Restorative Practices at GHS through a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) model. This year, the Peace Team has facilitated circles about student climate survey data with every principal in MNPS, spoken at School Board meetings to help end elementary suspensions and expulsions, facilitated solidarity circles in response to the NZ shooting, designed a recruiting process, informational meeting, and interview process to distill 35 members for next year's team from 160 interested applicants, spoken with legislators at the Capitol, and traveled to Wright Middle to encourage teachers and facilitate a Restorative Conference. This Spring, we received the exciting news that Peace Team is an official course through the state of Tennessee. We will be hosting trainings for MNPS schools wanting to form student Restorative Practices teams during the summer and mentoring them next year. We've also been mentoring school districts in St. Louis, Pennsylvania, Seattle, and Houston. In addition, Peace Team members will be hosting two sessions at the Alignment Nashville SEL Conference on June 28. Thank you for your support of our students!

Staff Stress Busters Week

Finals Week Events to de-stress and celebrate the school year

Come by the Restorative Center (or other listed locations) for some puppy snuggles, yard games, and teacher comedy to de-stress at the end of a busy year. Check out the upcoming flyer for details.

Thank you for all of your hard work! Be sure to take care of yourself and rest/refresh this summer.

Camp OurTown Committees

Students, teachers, and staff are working together on the following committees:

- **Culture Committee:** Welcome Week & Teacher-Student Relationships
- **Spirit Committee:** Pep Rallies, Events, & New Student Welcoming Committee
- **Student Voice Committee:** Student version of FVC

EMAIL AYRES OR FITTZ TO JOIN

Teacher Spotlight - Mrs. Forsthoff

How do you use Restorative Practices in your classroom on a regular basis?

I try to create a community within my classrooms as much as possible. Restorative Practices help me with this by teaching me how to properly facilitate circles and effectively speak and listen to my students. Many of my mini conferences with students in the hallway are guided by Restorative Practices. By using them, I tend to find out what is really bothering my students and then reach a resolution.

Tell us about a time you resolved a situation with a restorative conference or conversation with a student.

There have been quite a few situations resolved through restorative conversations... I've noticed an almost instant diffuser in my classroom is telling a student, "I feel disrespected." The students take this less personally, and their response is normally to reflect on their own behavior and correct it.

What advice would you have for teachers or staff who may be hesitant to utilize Restorative Practices?

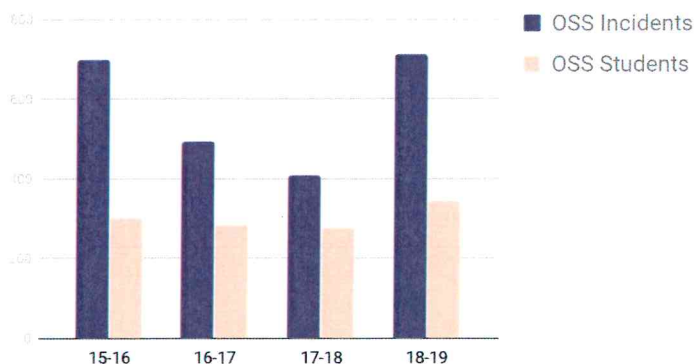
Our students have experienced things most of us cannot even imagine. They are humans living with circumstances that are mostly out of their control. It is our job to provide a consistent, stable environment for them while they are at school. In my opinion, building rapport with them is that most effective way to manage the classroom, and restorative practices give us guidelines for this.

DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATIVE DATA

This was our second full year implementing Restorative Practices school-wide. So far, we have made an amazing amount of progress, but we still have a lot more we can improve.

Check out some of the data below to see the trends.

OSS Incidents and Students Count - Annual Comparison



RESTORATIVE CENTER VISITS

17-18: 1,100 18-19: 1,500+

STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN RESTORATIVE CENTER

472

FIGHTS AVOIDED

40+

RESTORATIVE CONFERENCES

96

Next year's plans include: increased communication & referrals between teachers and Ms. Ayres in the Restorative Center, adding restorative disciplinary options, and distributing trauma-informed mindfulness tools.

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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS/SCHOOLS: (If more than one school, attach list of participants and their schools.)	1 participant Safe Harbor Academy
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$500
COST INCLUDES:	Lodging, mileage, meal per diem
FUNDING SOURCE:	013-2053-xxxx-401F
FUND MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended
PRINCIPAL/SUPERVISOR RECOMMENDATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <i>BAC</i>
SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended

OCT - 9 2019

WOODFORD COUNTY

Reviewed/Revised: 05/19/03

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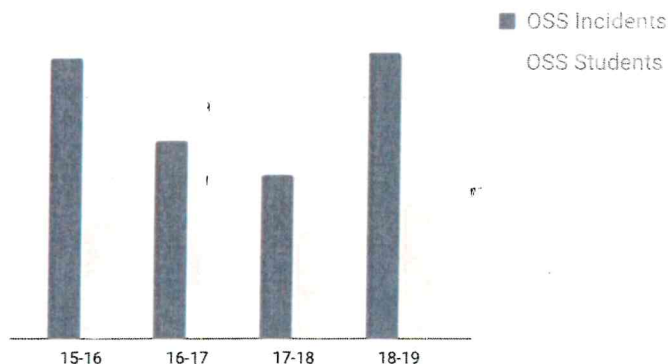
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