

TRANSFORMATION AND DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MICHAELHOUSE

Minutes of the Meeting on 25 January 2022

Good morning all, just a brief report back on the Transformation and Diversity Committee Meeting held last week Tuesday, the 25th of January.

We opened with ideas that were created and discussed last year, and which we wish to pursue in the upcoming year:

- Facilitating a shared drive for staff, to assist with the pronunciation of all boys' names. It was an important issue brought up, and we want to be proactive around the way we all pronounce people's names in the Michaelhouse Community.
- There is an inclusion in the syllabus for the E block boys where twice in a cycle all boys will partake in Conversational isiZulu classes.
- As many of you would have seen there, is a proposed alternative day uniform shirt, in the style of a Madiba Shirt. There were questions around cost, functionality, comfort, and whether we could possibly be able to produce them locally at an affordable price. We will continue on the idea and find a suitable solution with suppliers.
- We discussed our hair policies, and the boys proposed possibly having one or two representatives at the meeting and
- having the opportunity to discuss different hairstyle options introduced at the school. The committee will look at previous meetings minutes and the Rector is open to revisit the question.

We further went on to our aspirations for the year ahead, and discussed the following:

- Boys being comfortable to speak their home language more often, but also being sensitive to the fact of possibly excluding boys not of the same language.
- Similarly, we discussed introducing different languages and cultures into the spiritual part of the school, be it in our prayers, or songs exposing boys to differing cultures, ultimately keeping the way we operate spiritually as open and as exciting as possible.
- Further, we raised that the food/meals at the school could possibly take a turn in introducing the food of different cultures to our daily lives, be it in our breakfasts, lunches or dinners and developing mains and side dishes that showcase as many cultures as possible.
- Additionally, we spoke of possible days where we could have open lunches for all in the Michaelhouse community for all to enjoy. We furthered the idea and to possibly earmark some days where we could as boys,

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make an event of food stalls run by each individual house, and make an occasion of celebrating the staff and community that do so much for us.

Further ideas that were put forward, include:

- Having various talks around homophobia, exposing boys to the impact of it. It could be run by an expert or a fellow boy, who would discuss the topic and go into greater depth around the effects of it.
- Furthermore the committee looked at restarting the Social Awareness Committee. It would discuss difficult matters effecting people all around the world. It was suggested that it be run by the six A Block members of the Transformation and Diversity Committee. Framework will have to be discussed by the master in charge etc. There is great opportunity in restarting it, being able to collaborate with other schools in the area and discuss such issues.
- The issue of the security guards was also raised. We discussed the unacceptable treatment of the guards on occasions. It was agreed upon that the tormenting of guards is not fair play, and neither is the damage to school equipment. The job of the security guards is keep us all safe at school, and we need to respect that.

Lastly, in terms of communication, please be in contact with any one of the committee members regarding any issues, suggestions or opportunities. I will continuously keep the school informed on the report back of our meetings, I also encouraged both staff and boys to attend our meetings to hear what is discussed.

Thank you

Andrew Davis
Senior Prefect