

Committee Report

Committee Name: School Climate Committee

Submitted by: Ann Brodeur

Last meeting: November 9 & 17, 2015

Next meeting: November 30, 2015

On Monday, November 9, the committee hosted a well-attended two-hour listening session to address community concerns about use of *My Princess Boy* as teaching material in K-5 classrooms. The committee continued to receive emails from the community regarding it. The committee decided to meet one week later to discuss the use of *My Princess Boy* and other books in the context of a more developed anti-bullying effort.

On Tuesday, November 17, the committee met before another well-attended public. Because the book *My Princess Boy* has become so divisive to the community, the committee discussed areas for common ground on which to build an approach that could gain wide community support. The committee discussed the goal of the school's anti-bullying efforts, with an eye toward determining how specific books would fit within it. Several themes stood out: the need to improve the virtue curriculum to better address issues of difference/bullying; the need for more specificity in an anti-bullying program; the need to involve parents in the implementation of an anti-bullying program; the need for a process to decide which issues rise to the level of school-wide attention. All committee members agreed on the need to help students treat others with kindness and respect. The committee members were asked to work together to consider ways to build upon these themes to create a response that could garner broad community consensus.

The next committee meeting will be held on November 30 at 6:30p.m. The committee will discuss various compromise plans that will help us to address the core concerns of both sides while building consensus.