



## 2021 Spring Linkages Meetings

Date: Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

Group: Youth Rising Up

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom

Participants:

Brandon Hemphill

Nelson Brown

Members of YRU

Meeting Highlights:

- How are we addressing equity in learning during the pandemic?
  - Strengthening policies
  - Monitoring outcomes disaggregated by student demographics
  - Aware that we need to use what we've learned to make sure we don't go backwards or simply go back to the pre-pandemic status quo
- Acknowledge and celebrated the effectiveness of supporting student voices
  - Continue to encourage the students to speak up and provide opportunities to do so
- Prioritize hiring and retaining staff whose race, ethnicity, culture, gender and other identities reflect our student body
- Make curriculum relevant
  - Need a Black / African American studies class taught by a black teacher or at least by any color teacher who is very passionate and knowledgeable about Black History
    - All we get is Martin Luther King, Malcom X, and Rosa Parks, and we watch Roots
    - In a freshman history class, we spent more on JFK's assassination than on black history
    - Has to be a discussion focused class
    - Required?
  - African studies is good, but need much more African American history
  - Need history and other classes to expand and incorporate Black history
    - E.g. Why isn't the Tulsa massacre discussed in standard US history class?
- Want teachers who are not afraid to acknowledge their mistakes and discuss them
- Celebrate Black joy, Black voices – and not just during Black History Month

- Theatre program has been pretty one-sided
  - Black students feel type cast
  - Need more neutral plays / roles
- Some concern that people won't watch the YRU movie, but we will be using all channels we can think of to get it out there.
- Question of how to introduce the social justice work and talk about it earlier at the elementary schools