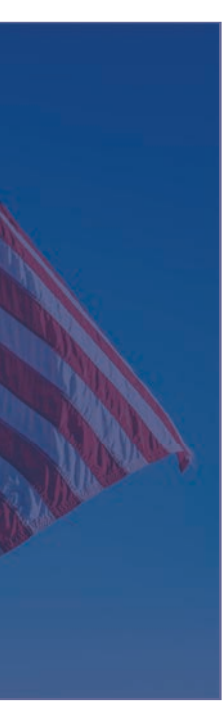


America to me *real talk*

PARENT GROUP CASE STUDY

PS 452 DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INITIATIVE
AND
COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 3
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Chancellor Richard Carranza
Dr. Christopher Emdin



Race | Education | Equity
District 3 | NYC Public Schools

APRIL 16, 2019 | TUESDAY | 6:00PM - 9:30PM
WADLEIGH SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR
THE PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
215 WEST 114TH STREET

Register at: <http://bit.ly/ps452CarranzaEmdin>

CEC's Diversity & Inclusion Initiative
Equity Education Council for District 3
America to Me Screening + Panel Discussion
Sharing Our Collective Responsibility in Education

Chancellor Richard Carranza • PS 452 Principal Scott Parker
Dr. Christopher Emdin • PS 452 Parent Zakiya Raines Heyden
Chala Holland
Moderated by CEC 3 Member
Sharmilee L. Ramudith

PROGRAM

6:00 PM WELCOME SCREENING
7:30 PM DISCUSSION RECEPTION

America to me
Witnesses it through their eyes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Where & Who

06

How

10

Impact

13

Assets





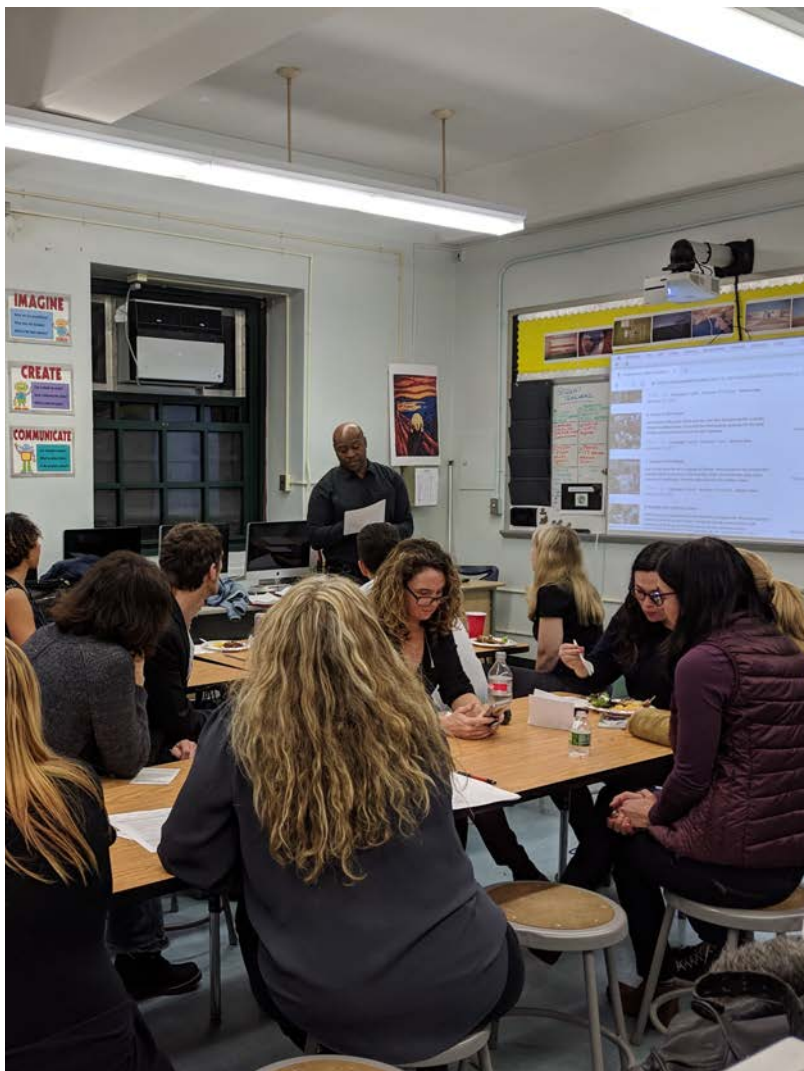
Where & Who

Where & Who

A dynamic parent watch group in a New York City school used the 10-part docuseries *America to Me* and "Real Talk" guides to have engaged, facilitated discussions about race and equity. Every episode sparked deep and reflective observations that continue to be relevant to their ongoing equity efforts.

Sharmilee L. Ramudit, an elected member of Community Education Council 3, PS 452's VP of Community Affairs, and founder of PS 452's Diversity & Inclusion Initiative, hosted weekly screenings & discussions for all 10 episodes.

Combined with Community Education Council 3's simultaneous monthly public screenings and discussions of *America to Me* (ep. 3, 5, 7 & 10), momentum built towards a culminating equity project to explore their "Collective Responsibility in Education".



“For groups that are trying to get a conversation started, *America to Me* discussion groups are a perfect **entry-level, non-threatening method to organize**. For groups that are well-established, there are classic and subtle racialized interactions captured in the series which offer numerous **opportunities for deeper, more nuanced discussion.**”

PS 452
New York, NY



”

MY WATCH GROUP NOW SEES DEEP INEQUITIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM EVERYWHERE WE LOOK. WE ARE EXPERIENCING THE RACIAL DIVIDES IN A MORE PERSONAL AND PAINFUL WAY. THIS PAIN DRIVES ME FORWARD TO CONTINUE PUSHING MY SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO PRIORITIZE RACIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN EDUCATION.

“

- Sharmilee, Founder of Diversity & Inclusion Initiative



How

How

The parent watch group noticed that local equity work was being led by principals and district education administrators, which created a barrier for parent participation in these initiatives. The **Diversity & Inclusion Initiative**, in partnership with Community Education Council 3, used the momentum from their watch groups to host a community event on **“Collective Responsibility in Education, An Exploration of Race & Equity in Education.”** At the event, they screened an episode of *America to Me*, and used it to prompt conversations about race, education, and equity with the following group of panelists:

- **Chancellor Richard Carranza** - responsible for NYC's Department of Education, the largest public school system in the US.
- **Dr. Christopher Emdin** - noted Teacher's College Scholar on transformative pedagogical approaches in the classroom.
- **Dr. Chala Holland** - *America to Me* series participant and 2018 recipient of the Courageous Conversation Principal Leadership Award.
- **PS 452 Principal Scott Parker** - locally celebrated principal for his leadership and long-time equity practitioner.
- **PS 452 Parent Zakiya Raines-Heyden** - committed parent well-versed in educational disparities.
- **CEC 3 Member Sharmilee L. Ramudit** - moderator of the discussion and parent-scholar committed to engaging in collaborative equity discourse.



Tools Used:

- ✓ **"Real Talk" Guides**
- ✓ ***America to Me* Episodes**

How: Step by Step



1. Planned and hosted parent workshop.

2. Watched episodes of *America to Me*.

3. Facilitated community event with parents, teachers and administrators.

4. Collected feedback.

”

IT IS A VERY DIFFERENT CLIMATE I AM WORKING IN ONE YEAR LATER - AND I CAN DEFINITELY ATTRIBUTE THAT TO AMERICA TO ME - NOT JUST WATCHING IT, BUT ORGANIZING AND HOSTING A WATCH GROUP FOR ALL 10 EPISODES, WHERE WE WERE VERY INTENTIONAL ABOUT COMING TOGETHER TO DISCUSS RACE.

“

- Sharmilee, Founder of Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

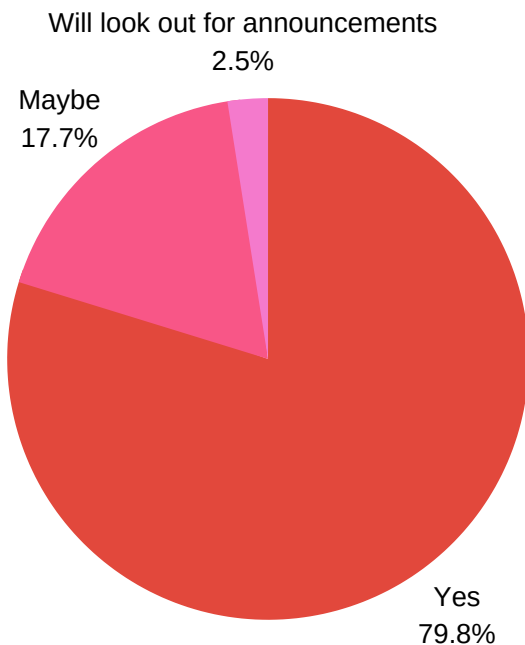


Impact

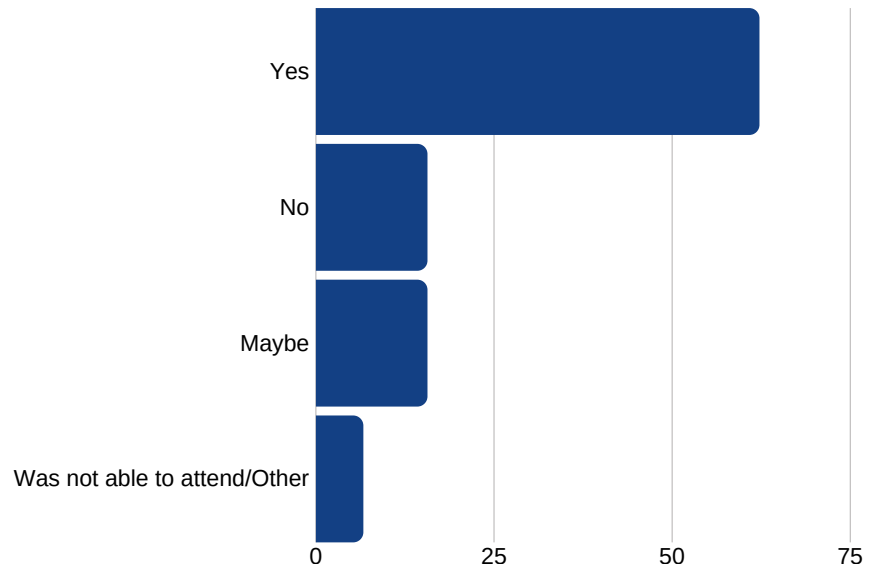
COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP- FEEDBACK SURVEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Make civic participation necessary for a high school diploma.
- Create more conversations on specific aims for “equity initiatives” other than greater diversity. What happens after we integrate? What happens after demographics are better represented?
- Changes to systems are necessary for equity to be possible. Schools need continuous support disrupting existing systems and implementing structural change.

Would you be interested in participating in a follow-up discussion?



Did this event provide you with new insights into racial equity in schools in District 3?



”

STRUCTURED PROPERLY, A CONVERSATION USING SCENES FROM *AMERICA TO ME* CAN RESULT IN THE EXCAVATION OF EXISTING BIASES, AS WELL AS THE INTERRUPTION OF THOSE PATTERNED BELIEF SYSTEMS. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THAT SHIFT COULD LOOK LIKE IF AN ENTIRE URBAN SCHOOL SYSTEM COMMITTED THEIR STAFF TO A 10-WEEK *AMERICA TO ME* PROFESSIONAL LEARNING.

“

Sharmilee, Founder of Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

Assets

click links below to open:

01

America to Me
"Real Talk" Guides

-
<https://bit.ly/2AVnOxS>

02

**NYU Decolonizing
Education
Conference**

-
<https://bit.ly/2IYhgKx>

03

**Parent Group
Sample Invitation**

-
<https://bit.ly/2IS56D8>

04

**Reimagining
Education Summer
Institute at Columbia
University**

-
<https://bit.ly/34n36Uz>



Are you using *America to Me* and the “Real Talk” guide to disrupt everyday racism at your school? Email us at:
atm@participant.com.

AMERICATOMEREALTALK.COM

