

## WUSYG BLM Banner Conversation, 10/8/17

Context: The conversation regarding the banner came after a conversation about race & racism in small and big group discussion. Sam explained history of BLM and BLUU. Sarah provided context with main points/concerns raised at the last two discussions held. Sam, Haley, and Sarah facilitated. All notes below reflect youth voices.

- On the question of whether or not to have the banner
  - o 100% of youth in room knew at least a little about Black Lives Matter and believed that the banner should be put up
  - o “We need to do something. Something imperfect is better than nothing.”
- In a discussion on the conservative nature of Winchester:
  - o Because we exist in a conservative town, it is even more important that we have a Banner
  - o “Because of the [conservative] nature of Winchester, that is even more reason to have a banner. We can’t hide behind a wall.”
  - o “This town is a bubble. We need to educate the community and share with them why this [ BLM Banner] is important.”
- On the issue of vandalism:
  - o Consensus that there is a high probability that vandalism will occur but that that high probability is only a bigger reason to put the banner up
  - o “vandalism acts as proof that there is an issue with racism in our community”
  - o “Vandalism makes space for education and discussion and public conversation”
  - o “its kind of like a social experiment”
  - o suggested putting up **fake** cameras and a motion-sensitive spotlight to prevent instances of vandalism
- On the topic of ‘All Lives Matter’:
  - o Fire analogy was mentioned: “When a house is on fire, no one shouts that all houses matter and puts water on all the houses. They just put water the one that’s on fire because that’s the one that needs the most help.”
  - o Because of the history of slavery and genocide and black oppression in our country, it is necessary to be specific about black lives