WISD Restorative Justice Vision 2019-20:
We consistently and inclusively invest in making relationships matter most in successful learning communities where the dignity, rights and needs of all members are valued and respected. We are building a restorative community that is safe, supportive and conscious of injustice. When community is harmed, accountability involves collaborative communication, skills-building and harm-healing to build trust and strengthen relationships.

Mission and Strategic Priorities:
We will foster restorative, relationship-based learning communities by:

1. supporting adoption of restorative justice philosophy and practices throughout the Washtenaw Intermediate School District
2. providing training and support for schools to regularly practice staff- and student-led circles for learning, community-building and addressing conflict and misconduct using trauma-sensitive approaches
3. hosting peer-mediation teams/councils that help address conflict and identify situations of harm that need to be addressed
4. offering conflict coaching for members at all levels of the learning community
5. hosting collaborative networks of practitioners who will engage and empower schools to adopt relationship-focused paradigm

Restorative Justice Visioning Team Members have experience using restorative justice in schools and a commitment to students’ success.

- Valencia Brooks, Ypsilanti High School
- Mikel Brown, Ypsilanti Community Schools
- Belinda Dulin, Dispute Resolution Center, Washtenaw County
- Lauren Fardig-Diop, ACCE Academy
- Holly Heaviland, WISD
- Cory McElmeel, Skyline High School
- Amy McLoughlin, Community High School
- Shaenu Micou, Pathways to Success Academy
- Nancy Schertzing, Facilitator

During this academic year, the WISD continues supporting the integration of initiatives two and three in the following schools:

- Community High School
- Forsythe Middle School
- Pathways to Success Academy
- Skyline High School

We are also expanding our peer mediation initiative (3) to the following schools in the fall cohort:

- ACCE Academy
- Scarlett Middle School
- Ypsilanti Community High School
- Ypsilanti Community Middle School

And will welcome these schools for both initiatives 2 and 3 in the spring semester:

- Lincoln High School
- Pioneer High School
- Others TBA

Each of the early-adopter cohort schools is working with a coach who has experience practicing restorative justice in schools. Many are educators within their school while others are contracted either by the school or through WISD. These coaches’ roles vary according to the schools’ needs.
In addition to continuing and expanding support for the above schools’ restorative justice efforts, WISD is hosting or facilitating the success of collaborative networks of RJ practitioners in our county. Part of the 5th initiative (hosting collaborative networks of practitioners who will engage and empower schools to adopt relationship-focused paradigm) WISD offers:

We will continue to host First Friday Principals Collaboration Sessions immediately following the Washtenaw High School Principals Association meetings at WISD. These sessions usually run from 10:00 to 11:00 am and offer principals a chance to share their experiences around RJ, get and give feedback with their peers and request and receive resources to help them integrate restorative philosophy and practices into their school cultures. Participation is open to any school using restorative justice—not only those who have attended WISD RJ trainings.

In July the WISD hosted a Restorative Justice Trainers Summit where Vision Team members who are also expert trainers gathered for a day-long retreat and exploration of how we can best serve the Washtenaw Learning Community. One area of focus was to form a community of support and continuous learning in which we deepen our practice together. This will likely take place in sessions where we practice circle, learn from each other from our areas of expertise and host sessions at our schools so we can see where each works. These RJ Trainers Collaboration Sessions are slated for the first Thursday of the month immediately after school (3:30 to 5:00) at various locations.

We will host a monthly collaboration session for Peer-Mediator Faculty Advisors the second Thursday of each month from 8:00 to about 9:30 am. These sessions will be hosted by Amy McLoughlin and will include office hours where she can answer questions and concerns and offer the educators time to share and support each other. We expect to add short webinar presentations on continuing education topics relevant to peer mediation, restorative justice and fairness. We expect to record the webinar portions, and possibly the discussions, and post them on WISD’s website.

The Restorative Justice Initiative webpage will become a resource for restorative justice practitioners, trainers and information-seekers. We expect to have it populated for an initial opening by the end of September 2019. Eventually we hope it will include restorative justice-related videos produced by Washtenaw County students, resources about RJ in our county and beyond, links to reliable resources and more. As it evolves, it will be a primary tool for achieving initiative one above: supporting adoption of restorative justice philosophy and practices throughout the Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

For more information about these or any other restorative justice efforts by WISD, or are interested in learning more, reach out to Dr. Holly Heaviland at hheaviland@washtenawisd.org or 734.994.8100 ext. 1250.