The IDEAS MAALANA affinity group provides a safe space for educators of color to network, support, and brainstorm on school-related issues of social justice. MAALANA also provides an opportunity to share each other's company and enjoy light refreshments. We meet eight times over the school year. An email reminder is sent out each month to remind folks to RSVP and a summary is sent after each meeting with links to articles on related topics. You only need to reply if you plan to attend. There is no commitment to attend all meetings. Meeting time is from 3:30-5:30 on Fridays. We will meet in the Copper House Tavern of the Best Western Plus Hotel, which is located at 380 Winter Street, Waltham MA. You can enter up the stairs from the parking lot and go through the patio.

MAALANA is an affinity group designed to provide opportunities for educators of color from various communities in Massachusetts to share school experiences regarding topics, such as: race, culture, ethnicity, power/privilege, culturally responsive teaching practices, and systemic social change to create educational equity. Strategies for addressing the academic achievement of children from diverse cultures, preparing all students to successfully navigate a culturally diverse society, and collaboration techniques among colleagues are reviewed and discussed.

MAALANA educators are Multiracial, Asian, Arab, African Descent, Latino/a, and/or Native American teachers, advisors, counselors, administrators, staff, consultants, tutors, and retired educators who are the “only” or “one of few” of their racial/ethnic “affinity group” in their building or school system. Claudia A. Fox Tree has facilitated the monthly meetings since the 2006-2007 school year.

MAALANA is sponsored by IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students) through EDCO (Educational Collaborative located in Bedford, MA). Two (2) Contact hours will be awarded for attendance per meeting. These may be combined with the IDEAS Book Group for a “bundle” of 10.

DATES: Please "pencil in" our 8 Dates for 2019-2020 School Year (Fridays, unless otherwise noted from 3:30-5:30): 9/13, 10/18, 11/15, Skip Dec., 1/10, 2/7, 3/13, 4/3, and 5/8 (Bring White Ally), with 6/12 as a potential Make-Up Day in case we have snow or something that causes a canceled date.

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