

# CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

---

February 1, 2023

---

## In Attendance

---

Jonathan Casey, Christina Garber, Betsy Gayner, Deborah Lawrence, Adrian Murray, David Pettegrew, Autumn Reely, Emily Rudy, Tanisha Young

By Zoom: CM, Mr. Jacoby, Melanie Gurgiolo

Absent: Lolly Bentch, Jessica Henderson Regan, Teresa Smith, Tiena Tran, Dan Serfass

---

## Welcome

---

Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed everyone. He recognized the Lunar New Year and the start of Black History Month.

Debbie read the FERPA statement.

---

## Approval of Agenda

---

Adrian asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

---

## Approval of January Meeting Minutes

---

Adrian asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes. Hearing none, the January meeting minutes were approved.

---

## MLK Jr. Day of Service Reflections

---

Adrian asked committee members for their feedback on our event. Overall, members felt it went well with a very good attendance. Individuals attended as well as families. We collected a large amount of toiletry supplies for New Hope Ministries and lots of wonderful cards were made for Caitlin's Smiles. Having the ongoing video stream of MLK speeches and the cards of facts on all the tables added were a great addition. The event also helped to make people aware of the existence of our committee. Suggestions for next year would be to advertise our event earlier through the media, and to have sign-in sheets to track attendance. Emily has photos of our event to use in a recap of the event..

---

## Support for New Families to the District

---

Betsy shared an updated version of the welcome packet and thanked everyone that contributed. More ideas were shared during the meeting and those changes will be added. Adrian will send the

updated packet to the Community Engagement Committee for their review and comments before it is sent to Borough Council for their review and comments. It will need to be reviewed and updated regularly so digitizing it and placing it on the District and Borough website would be ideal.

Discussion about the buddy system for new students to the district. Autumn stated that the majority of new students to the district are from surrounding communities. We have 5 new students from out-of-state this year.

The Committee suggested that the registrar ask the student/family if they would like to be contacted by a member of our group. Adrian will write a proposal for the process for pairing up new families with existing families in the community.

Tanisha brought up concerns we could be overwhelmed with requests from kindergarten parents if it is their first child going to school. She suggested that should this happen, we might see if those individuals that applied to join our committee that were not selected, might be willing to assist us, if the district still has that contact information.

Adrian mentioned the Lions Connect program that teachers in the elementary schools had put together. He suggested we invite Roxanne Dixon to our next meeting to give us an overview of the program.

---

## Districtwide Data and Metrics

---

David reviewed an updated draft proposal for acquiring data concerning the demographic characteristics of our student population. The goal is to see how our district has changed over the years in various categories and then how our committee might help assist with those changing demographics and needs. A data chart was shared of the number of students by race, economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners, special education, gifted education and 504 plans.

Autumn shared that the above categories are always fluctuating as students move in and out of the district and as students are identified with needs and those that meet success and leave those programs. She reported that the district looks at 5-year data as trends can be established accurately using that time period. The proposal of going back 20 years would be extremely time consuming and difficult to even find. She mentioned that the Cedar Report gives information about the special education statistics of each district and the Future Ready Index provides a collection of school progress measures related to school and student success. Both of these reports are public information and can be found online.

She did share that our economically disadvantaged students have risen from 13% to 30%.

Adrian discussed our activities impacting future Leader in Me surveys done by the students and families. If we are less welcoming to certain ethnicities, do we see a declining enrollment or vice versa.

Adrian thought we should see what information we can publicly find first and then see what information we still need.

David, who is a history professor at Messiah University, shared information about a grassroots initiative known as the Commonwealth Monument Project. This was a collaboration of local educators, historians, artists, architects, reformers and city and state officials.

The culmination of this 2-year project was the dedication of the monument called "A Gathering at the Crossroads". This monument commemorates the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which gave all African American men the right to vote and then all women the right to vote. David encourages everyone to visit the monument which is located at Fourth and Walnut Street on the south side of the state capitol grounds.

Thomas Morris Chester, who was born in Harrisburg and is one of the orators in the monument, was a highly respected journalist, lawyer and civil rights proponent in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Recognizing his role in pursuing equity and justice in the period before and after the America's Civil War, the city of Harrisburg recently renamed the stretch of Walnut Street between the monument and the McCormick Riverfront Library as the "T Morris Chester Way" The McCormick Riverfront Library has been renovated and renamed the T. Morris Chester Welcome Center and Research Collection.

Another project underway by the Center of Public Humanities at Messiah University is The Chester Way. A grant was received from the Council of Independent Colleges to partner with the Commonwealth Monument Project, the Dauphin County Library, and Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to develop several public products.

The products will be a website with a digital collection of primary sources related to the 4 orators of the Commonwealth Monument, a story map about Thomas Morris Chester and a Capital Area Civil Rights digital tour and mobile app (Curatescape). The plan is to develop a "base map" of 25 stories about civil rights in the capital region. David is looking to include stories from the West Shore communities such as Camp Hill and Mechanicsburg.

Discussion of how Camp Hill can be represented in this project. Contact Camp Hill Historical Society for their thoughts. Christina asked how CH students might be able to assist with the project perhaps as an internship. Information will be sent to Mrs. Mayberry who coordinates internships for students.

Adrian mentioned that several students did submit essays for the state wide essay contest. They are currently awaiting results. He thought it would be a good idea to recognize these students for submitting an essay.

Discussion about our committee coordinating a district wide essay next year. Students could submit to the state and then use the same essay for our program. Recognizing that the project for K – 2 would look differently than for grades 3-5, MS and HS.

---

## School Lunch Options

---

Autumn reported a meeting and an analysis needs to take place between the business office, cafeteria director and the budget and finance committee.

---

## CAC for DEI Web Presence

---

Autumn stated that we can submit changes while the district website is being revamped. She asked that a member or our committee come in and work with Amanda in the district office to make changes. We are to let Autumn know who that person will be.

---

### Tabletop Gaming to Support Neurodiverse Students

---

Adrian has created a document to circulate to teachers, parents and community members asking if they would be interested in being trained to participate in this program.

---

### Comments, Announcements, and Any Other Business

---

Christina mentioned that the Surgeon General has stated that children less than 16 should not be on social media. She wondered how our committee might be able to educate/influence parents to stop their child's use of social media and how the district might help parents to create healthy digital lives for their children.

Discussion about device use in school, policy 237. Autumn reported that the Bring Your Own Device policy that was utilized during COVID is no longer in place. The Chrome books are locked and internet access is not available.

It was felt that the district can help to educate the students about the dangers of social media but it is more of a community/family issue.

The school district is having a Town Hall meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm on a variety of topics. Adrian will give an overview of our committee's mission, activities and answer questions.

---

### Adjournment

---

To contact the CAC for DEI please email us at [CAC4DEI@camphillsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:CAC4DEI@camphillsd.k12.pa.us)

Adrian adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm