

CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 1, 2023

In Attendance

Lolly Bentch, Jonathan Casey, Christina Garber, Betsy Gayner, Deborah Lawrence, Adrian Murray, David Pettegrew, Jessica Henderson Regan, Autumn Reely, Teresa Smith

By Zoom: CM, Mr. Jacoby, Karen Mallah

Absent: Emily Rudy, Dan Serfass, Tanisha Young

Welcome

Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and welcomed everyone. He recognized that it is Women's History Month.

Debbie read the FERPA statement.

Approval of Agenda

Adrian asked to amend the agenda by adding a discussion about the upcoming Town Hall meeting the district is hosting. The agenda along with the addition was approved.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

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

CAC for DEI Vacancy

Tiena Tran has resigned her position on the CAC for DEI committee. The school district has posted the vacancy on their website. Adrian asked that we spread the word that we are seeking a new member to join our committee. Applications are due by March 20th. They will be compiled and shared with us at our April meeting. Again, the applications we review will be anonymous. We will vote at our April meeting.

Support for New Families to the District

Adrian introduced Roxanne Dixon to the committee. Roxanne is a former CH elementary music teacher who spearheaded, along with some other elementary teachers, a group called Lion Connections during the 2020-21 school year. They partnered with the Earl Besch project to assist families in navigating the systems, infrastructure, traditions, and culture of the school district and community. The goal was for families to build connections within the school community and provide a structure for families to help one another.

They sent a survey to all families(K-12) through the Blackboard alert system asking them if they wanted to participate. The 30 families that responded were then placed in either "Family A" (needs assistance with navigating school, questions about school expectations, new to district or has few

contacts, language or culture barriers) or placed in "Family B" (could help other families navigate, answer questions about district/community, help navigate language or cultural barriers)

Families were matched up by needs and ages of children. Due to the complexities of COVID, the program never really launched and very little feedback was received. Jessica was part of the program and reported although calling her assigned family twice, she never heard back from them.

Discussion about our committee relaunching this program as part of our support of families within our district initiative. Ideas discussed were having an in-person event so that the families could meet, having scripts for the B family's to help them introduce themselves via phone, virtual meetings, asking more specifically what A family's needs are, offer families to connect by text, phone or email, put a time limit on program, look at a mentor program to teach people how to mentor and ideas of how to reach families through blackboard announcement, Earl Besch pantry, ELL teachers and guidance counselors.

All members of the committee that were present felt this program would be a great fit with our committee's initiative. Adrian will write up a summary and submit it to the CEC for their consideration. Roxanne will share the google survey that they sent.

The welcome packet has been updated. Debbie, a new Human Relations Committee member, shared our packet with them. They were very interested in using it. Betsy will make a few more additions, categorize the listings along with make a table of contents. Once that is completed, Betsy will send to Borough Council for their review.

Student Use of Electronic Devices and Social Media

Christina discussed a recent report from the CDC on teenage wellbeing. Girls and the LGBTQ community have seen a dramatic decline in their mental health over the last decade. 57% of girls report persistent sadness (increase of 20%) and 30% have considered suicide/have plan (increase of 25%). The surgeon general has stated that children under the age of 16 should not be on social media. The average time a teen spends on their device is 7 hours and 22 minutes a day.

Discussion regarding how the school district can support and encourage students to decrease their device use. Cell phone use in the classroom is at the teacher's discretion. They are used for educational purposes at times. Digital health if not in the curriculum, should be a consideration to add. Christina reported that her daughter had to use social media to participate in an extracurricular activity and she did not feel that should be necessary.

Some ideas included having an assembly for the students and a workshop for the parents. The assembly would focus on all aged students. It was felt the younger kids needed to start learning about internet safety/social media and its' dangers before they get a cellphone. Christina shared a YouTube video by Max Stossell presenting "Teens, We've Been Sneaking Into Your Brains". Max worked for a former social media tech company but now gives lectures regarding the dangers of social media.

The workshop for parents would include the above but also would help parents understand the devices better as in how to monitor and limit their child's access to social media sites and texting. It would also include encouraging parents to delay getting their child a cell phone by 6 months and at best not before 8th grade.

Autumn suggested we look at the education piece for families first. Christina will put a proposal together including the goals of the program and provide data/articles. She will look for some potential speakers and their cost. This will be sent to the CEC for their consideration.

Jonathan stated that hopefully we will see more regulation going forward that will also help.

Town Hall Meeting

The school district will host a townhall meeting on March 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Sutliff Auditorium. There will be a variety of different topics. Adrian will be speaking on behalf of our committee. Time is limited so Adrian will share our Mission statement, a description of our initiatives, and then answer any questions.

We will have a table in the lobby. Betsy will provide a copy of our mission statement, list of initiatives, information on how to contact us, how to apply for the open position on our committee and a sign-up sheet for people willing to assist us with initiatives.

School Lunch Options

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until next month.

CAC for DEI Web Presence

David met with Amanda at the district to reorganize our website and make things clearer. He asked that we send him photos of our events and once we have a new member perhaps a group photo of our committee would be a good addition.

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. Adrian has spoken to the library staff and asked committee members to consider participating. We are in need of 10 people. Discussion about older students, perhaps going into the education field, that might be interested in participating. Jessica mentioned there is a new coffee shop opening on the Carlisle Pike that will be staffed by neurodiverse individuals. It might be a place to hold a gaming session.

Comments, Announcements, and Any Other Business

No further comments, announcements or business.

Adjournment

To contact the CAC for DEI please email us at CAC4DEI@camphillsd.k12.pa.us

Adrian adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm

Our next meeting is April 5th at 6:00 pm