

CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 1, 2023

In Attendance

Jonathan Casey, Vanessa Cilento, Betsy Gayner, Deborah Lawrence, Adrian Murray, David Pettigrew, Jessica Henderson Regan, Emily Rudy, Teresa Smith, Autumn Reely

By Zoom: Karen Mallah, CM

Absent: Lolly Bentch, Christina Garber, Dan Serfass

Welcome

Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:03 and welcomed everyone.

Debbie read the FERPA statement.

Approval of Agenda

Adrian asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. David requested to add a brief update on the district website. Change to the agenda was approved.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

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

CAC for DEI Transition to the Next Term

Adrian reviewed the process of the transition of our committee.

Half of our committee members will stay on the board for one additional year. Three of those will be the officers (Adrian, Debbie and Betsy) The remaining 3 positions will be selected at random by those remaining members that want to continue to serve for one year. Adrian asked each of the remaining board members if they wanted to participate in being selected for another 1-year term. All members with the exclusion of Jessica and Lolly want to continue on the board.

Cards, three Aces and three 7's, were placed in a bag and drawn by the 6 members wanting to continue on the board. It was decided that those drawing Ace's would stay on. The three members to draw aces were Jonathan Casey, Christina Garber, and Teresa Smith.

The remaining 6 positions, a 2-year position, will be filled through the application process. Current committee members that were not selected can apply for a 2-year position. The notification and application have been sent through the Blackboard system. Applications will be accepted until 11/26.

Adrian asked if prior applicants that were not selected could be contacted. Autumn will discuss with Melanie, the chair of the CEC.

Adrian reminded the committee that our December meeting has been changed to November 29th so we can review the applications and make our selections. The school board will vote on our candidates at their December board meeting.

District Website Update

David reported that he met with Dan Serfass, Autumn and Tonya Ivey recently. We are able to make changes to our information as the district is updating the entire website. He would like more photos to add such as the group photo taken in May, coffeehouse meet and greet, and MLK event. Other information will be our bylaws, meeting agendas and minutes, statement on our Lion Connections program, an events page and a resource page. If you have photos or other ideas, please forward them to David. He hopes to have the webpage updated by next meeting.

Support for New Families to the District

A blackboard message was sent recently about the Lions Connection program which contained a link to the applications. We currently have 16 families that are willing to be Ambassador families. Jonathan will contact them via email to inquire about clearances and to obtain copies. The clearances will be maintained by the secretary. No update on whether we have families requesting help at this time. Jonathan will be point person for those applications.

Jessica shared a story about a family that has settled here from Peru that she met this summer. She recently saw the children and was impressed by their English skills and how well adapted they appear. She reminded us that we have a special community and that often times those new to our area just need a little support and guidance.

Tabletop Gaming to Support Neurodiverse Students

Adrian reported that the recent training by the Bodhanna group exceeded his expectations. There were 4 people trained which also included a teacher, community member and the head of teen programming at the library. This training was geared for MS and HS level students.

He explained that the games are designed for fun but are intentionally used for a variety of different uses such as socialization, creativity, critical thinking and can be adapted for a particular population of individuals, such as ones with disabilities, more advanced groups, smaller groups or for time constraint reasons. Eight games were given to the school district.

Training also included information on how to address issues such as cheating and conflict within a group.

Adrian would like to see the guidance counselors trained. He feels this could be a more refreshed option to offer during their social skills groups.

Next steps include:

The librarian that received training wants to bring the trainers back to train more library staff. Then start offering programming rotating between Simpson and Frederickson libraries.

Investigate starting an afterschool club for MS and HS students. Will need to find a moderator and way to pay a stipend. Adrian will send information to CEC.

Find others that want to shadow those that were trained. The training wouldn't be as extensive, but focus on the introduction and the basics of using the games intentionally.

Students Use of Electronic Devices and Social Media

Adrian reported for Christina. We are still looking to host a parental workshop to learn more about the use and control of their student's devices.

Discussion about cell phone use. Jonathan mentioned an article about some states are confiscating student phones as they arrive at school and then distribute them back to the student at the end of the day. They have no access to them during the day.

Autumn reminded us that policy 237, Electronic Communication Devices, will start the process of review in November. She encouraged us to send any recommendations for the policy to the CEC.

Repeat discussion about the use of social media (IG and Snap Chat) by extracurricular activities to communicate. Not all students have devices and not all parents are comfortable having their children use these social media platforms. Discussion about using Chromebook communication instead.

Debbie stated that some teachers may not be aware that all students don't have access to cell phones.

Betsy will write up points of our discussion and post on SLACK for review. Once reviewed, Adrian will send to CEC.

MLK Day 2024 Planning

Discussion about this year's activities. Generally, the committee liked what we did last year but is there something more we could add.

Emily mentioned AmeriCorp and their Bridging and Belonging Practices podcast. It discusses how we can connect what we do with students in school. They have a tool kit for MLK day.

It appears the state wide MLK essay contest is due 12/1. Discussion about including the younger students and those students that don't like to write. It was decided we would have 2 contests. One would be the essays that are submitted to the state would also be submitted to our committee. A winner would be selected from each school (Hoover, Eisenhower, MS and HS)

The second contest would be a more creative approach, such as a poster, painting, drawing, song, poem or statue. Again, a winner from each school would be selected.

Discussion about the school district promoting this event and asking the art and music teachers to discuss the event within their classrooms.

The deadline for submission would be January 3rd. Discussion about items being dropped off in art and music rooms and where to take the entries for review and judging.

We would notify students about their award and make presentations at our MLK event in the MS/HS cafeteria. Jessica and Jonathan will obtain prizes.

Autumn has reserved the cafeteria space for MLK Day on January 15th.

The subcommittee will write up overview to submit to CEC. Jessica to be added to subcommittee.

Items to be Sent to CEC for Approval

The following items will be sent to the Community Engagement Committee for approval at their November 16th meeting.

1. Cell phone policy recommendations
2. Information for MLK day and contest
3. Tabletop gaming afterschool club and stipend

Comments, Announcements, and Any Other Business

No comments, announcements or any other business.

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

Adrian adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm

Our next meeting is November 29th at 6:00 pm