

# CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 3, 2022

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## In Attendance

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Lolly Bentch, Christina Garber, Betsy Gayner, Debbie Lawrence, Adrian Murray, David Pettegrew, Jessica Henderson Regan, Autumn Reely, Emily Rudy, Dan Serfass, Tanisha Young  
By Zoom: CM, Karen Mallah, Melanie Gurgiolo, Bryan Burton, Sharon Hanson  
Absent: Jonathan Casey, Teresa Smith

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## Welcome

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Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and welcomed everyone back. He reminded the group of the accomplishments since our advisory committee first met only 8 months ago. These include establishing Co-chairs for the committee, the writing and approval of our By-Laws, developing a list of initiatives that coincide with the school district's Comprehensive Plan, as well as giving input into the online district calendar for the upcoming school year. He thanked everyone for their efforts.

Debbie Lawrence read the FERPA statement.

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## Approval of Agenda

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

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## Approval of June Meeting Minutes

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Adrian made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Hearing no changes, the meeting minutes were approved.

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## CAC for DEI Vacancy

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Adrian reported that Sherifat Forcey has resigned from the committee. He thanked her for her service and then outlined the process of filling the vacancy.

The vacancy has been referred to the Community Engagement/Governmental Relations committee for their meeting on 8/18/22 to discuss. They will advertise the opening with the due date for applications being 9/5/22.

The applications will be reviewed by Dan Serfass and Autumn Reely. They will redact the names from the applications.

The applications will be shared with our committee and we will vote at our meeting on 9/7/22.

The applicant we recommend will be sent to the CE/GR committee for their consideration at their 9/15/22 meeting. If they agree, the applicants name will be forwarded to the School Board for approval at their 9/19/22 meeting. Adrian is hopeful we will have a new member for our October meeting.

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## Next Steps for Proposed CAC for DEI Initiatives

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Adrian reported that the Borough Council has developed a Diversity Action Committee. Once he knows who is chairing this committee, he will reach out to them in the hopes we can work together on initiatives.

**Review of Initiatives:** Adrian asked that people share their ideas about how to move those initiatives they were interested in forward. He reminded everyone that any action we want to take on an initiative, must be sent to the Community Engagement/Governmental Relations committee for approval first. He stated that not all members have to be involved with every initiative, a small group (less than a quorum) should make the details. Autumn suggested a written process for each initiative that lists the details from step 1 to the end is often helpful.

1. **Parent Input:** Lolly asked to be removed. Teresa was added. David asked if we had an established committee email address for accepting feedback, information and concerns. Autumn and Dan will review the emails first and then forward on to us. The email address is: **CAC4DEI@camphillsd.k12.pa.us**
2. **Calendar:** Adrian reported that our list of holidays and dates have been submitted to the district. The district has moved to a digital calendar which will allow us to add other dates if we need to. Adrian thanked those members who worked on and completed this initiative.
3. **MLK Service Day:** Adrian, Jessica Regan and Teresa asked to be added to this initiative. Tanisha's initial ideas are working with the library, Earl Besch pantry, park and community clean ups. Given that MLK day is in January, weather could be a factor in choosing what we do. Debbie asked if there were items within the school buildings that need help. Jessica mentioned maybe offering to help within the Harrisburg School District. She also reported that New Hope Ministries has many locations and a new women's shelter that may need help. Adrian suggested that as it is our 1<sup>st</sup> year, we might coordinate with community organizations that have things already planned and see how we can help with service and or supplies. It also was discussed that we might consider having 2 service days a year. November 29 is the National Day of Giving.

Dan said that the School District, Lion Foundation, New Hope Ministries and the Camp Hill United Methodist Church have a meeting scheduled on 8/17/22 to discuss streamlining the needs for families in our community. He offered that a member of the CAC for DEI council could attend this meeting if interested. Jessica and Lolly will attend the meeting and bring ideas back.

David mentioned Caitlin Smiles is an organization that makes cards for children with cancer that are in the hospital.

4. **Booth at Community Functions:** Lolly asked to be removed. Emily and Teresa asked to be added. How do we get more of a presence so that people in the community know we exist? Adrian reported that the CE/GR committee is going to schedule an upcoming evening meeting and he will be giving a presentation about our committee to increase public awareness.

We need to keep an eye on the community calendar and look ahead for upcoming events as well as work with the Borough Council Diversity committee.

Jessica discussed signage and trifolds for a table or booth. What information do we want to share and how would it be funded? Adrian thought the Lion Foundation might be a possibility or pursuing in-kind donations.

Back to school nights were discussed but there is not enough time to get approval from the CE/GR committee.

Debbie mentioned our committee having a display for the Parade of Lights this year. This is a high visibility event for our community.

Cornerstone coffee house meet and greet discussed.

5. **Neurodiverse Club:** It was felt our focus should be on the MS/HS. We should first determine what is being done already. This club would focus on students having social/friendship/fitting in issues including but not limited to students with special needs. Discussion surrounded engaging National Honor Society students or students pursuing the fields of education, medicine, social work etc. to be part of this club. They would act as buddies and be a friendly face in the hallway, classroom or in the cafeteria. Christina mentioned that there had previously been a breakfast club for these students.

Dan mentioned the Best Buddies Program, a National Program, that aligns kids with social activities that don't get out. He also said to form a new club an advisor must be identified and Autumn stated her willingness to assist with finding someone. She reported that the school has a contract with Laurel Life, a counseling program, that will be working within the district with small groups of students with similar needs.

Discussion about having quarterly parent meetings of neurodiverse students so they can meet, share and talk.

6. **Pen Pal:** Adrian added to group. Emily shared a link regarding curriculum for pen pal initiative. She is going to institute it at her school this year. It is a zoom link so that students in her district are able to connect with students in other cities and countries. Dan requested the link to review and then after his review will send to the leadership team and then on to the Curriculum committee for their consideration.

Discussion about within our district having HS students going into the elementary schools and sharing projects.

Christina discussed the importance of mentorship in getting kids back on track after COVID. Dan stated that Jr's and Sr's looking to pursue education have the opportunity to apply for internships at Eisenhower and Hoover elementary. Christina mentioned what a benefit it is to live in such a small school district so that our schools are so well connected.

7. **Education Months:** David wants to have a conversation about how can we commemorate Harrisburg history for our school.
8. **Parent Hospitality:** Teresa asked to be added.

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#### Comments, Announcements, and Any Other Business

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None

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#### Adjournment

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Adrian adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 pm