

CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 7, 2022

In Attendance

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

Welcome

Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and welcomed everyone back. He stated we have a full agenda which includes selecting a new member to join our committee.

Debbie Lawrence 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 August Meeting Minutes

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

Review Candidates to Fill CAC for DEI Vacancy

Adrian thanked all those that applied and expressed our appreciation for their willingness to serve on this committee. We are fortunate to have such qualified candidates apply.

Autumn reviewed the procedure for voting. The names of the candidates have been redacted. They have letters attached to their bio's. Autumn handed out ballot sheets and asked that we write down the letters of our top 3 candidates. After tallying those results, she told us the top 2 candidates were (E and H). She handed out another ballot sheet and asked us to select one. She tallied the votes and announced candidate E was our selection.

Both candidates (E and H) will be presented to the Community Engagement Committee at their next meeting on 9/15. With their approval, the candidates will be sent on for approval by the school board on 9/19. Should candidate E decline the offer to serve on the committee, the vacancy will then be offered to candidate H.

Updates for Proposed CAC for DEI Initiatives

1. **Cornerstone Meet- Up:** Debbie explained that the goal of this event is to be a presence in the community. We want to let community members know our committee exists, seek their input/ideas, and get volunteers to help with events. Although we want to hear their general concerns, she reminded us that **no** student situations can be discussed. They should be directed to contact Autumn directly.

The event has been planned for October 4th from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Cornerstone Coffeehouse. Emily drafted a flyer that she shared with the group for input. She will make some changes. Jonathan, Teresa and Debbie will be the CAC for DEI representatives at the event.

A synopsis of the event including the flyer will be submitted to the CEC for their approval at their 9/15 meeting. It will then be sent on to the school board for their approval on 9/19. The flyer will be posted on the district website under CAC for DEI, pushed out on blackboard and some may be posted within the CH community.

Discussion about how many CAC for DEI committee members could attend this event. Autumn will check on whether the rules of a quorum pertain to these types of events as they aren't formal meetings and nothing is getting voted on.

We may want to have these meet-ups periodically. Discussion about using library rooms in the future.

2. **Earl Besch Project:** Lolly recently attended their meeting and was tremendously impressed by all that they do. She will continue to attend their meetings and let us know how our committee might be able to support or assist them.
3. **MLK Service Day:** Tanisha, Adrian, Teresa and Lolly are heading up this initiative. It will be held on January 23, 2023. Adrian suggested for our first year we might coordinate with community organizations that have things already planned and see how we can help with service and or supplies.
4. **Neurodiverse Club:** Lolly, Adrian and Betsy are heading up this initiative. The primary goal of this initiative is to have a place for neurodiverse students to come together for socialization. Neurotypical students will also be welcomed.

Adrian attended the Whitaker Center Board gaming event this past weekend. He met the Executive Director of the Bodhana Group which is a non-profit that brings tabletop games and therapy for therapists and clients of all ages. They believe it assists in socialization, educational, and coping skills, as well as emotional expression.

Adrian discussed Extra Life, which is an online organization that unites gamers around the world to fundraise for Children's Miracle Network. For a variety of reasons, neurodiverse students don't always feel comfortable participating in large fundraisers, such as THON. This organization allows for these students to participate in fundraisers for a good cause.

Lolly, Adrian and Betsy will meet to plan and write up a synopsis to present to the CAC for DEI at next month's committee meeting.

5. **Pen Pal:** Emily updated that she is discussing with her school administration about starting this program with her students in the district she works.
6. **Clothing Drive:** Jessica brought up a new initiative to the committee. She would like to partner with the Harrisburg School District. She met recently with the school therapist and asked her what their most immediate need is. The therapist explained that they have reinstated uniforms and they are finding a lot of the students aren't complying for financial reasons. This includes K-12 students.

Jessica suggested we do a clothing drive and was given a flyer with pictures of appropriate school uniform attire. The district would prefer clothing items instead of money. Clothing is best new but certainly gently worn items would be accepted. Discussion about speaking to the First Baptist Church about selecting items from their monthly free closet as well as partnering with the Borough Council to help advertise and perhaps be a collection spot for items.

Adrian put forth a motion to accept this new initiative and a vote was taken. It was approved by the board.

Jessica will write up a synopsis of this initiative. It will be presented and discussed by the CEC at its 9/15 meeting before going to the school board for their approval.

Comments, Announcements, and Any Other Business

General discussion took place about the process of getting initiatives approved feeling clunky and slow. Adrian reminded us that our committee is an "arm" of the CEC and that the school board is in charge. We are also a new committee just getting our legs under us, so initially it may feel more cumbersome. Before any initiative is reviewed by the CEC, all information must be complete including dates. After the CEC gives approval, the school board must vote to approve. The CEC meets the 3rd Thursday of the month and the school board the 1st Monday (work session) and 2nd Monday (voting session) of the month. Autumn reiterated that the school board wants us in the community, but as a committee we are representing the school district so it is important the board knows what we are doing and distributing. She suggested we look at what initiatives/events we want to have within the next 6 months. Work on the plans, gather all the specifics and put them forth all at once. Some of these events may be reoccurring, so we won't have to reinvent the wheel every time.

Jonathan mentioned the Rotary Club is holding a pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 8th from 7:00 – 11:00 am at John Harris Highschool. It is one of their big fundraisers and he invited everyone to attend.

Tanish asked about teacher in-service days and if we could be made aware of any items that they learn that might pertain to our committee. Autumn stated teacher in-service days are planned for the year and she will share that information with us next month.

Adjournment

Adrian adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00 pm