

# CAC DEI COMMITTEE MINUTES

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November 2, 2022

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## In Attendance

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Lolly Bentch, Jonathan Casey, Christina Garber, Betsy Gayner, Jessica Henderson Regan, Adrian Murray, David Pettegrew, Autumn Reely, Emily Rudy, Tiena Tran, Tanisha Young

By Zoom: CM, Anita Burton, Karen Mallah

Absent: Deborah Lawrence, Teresa Smith, Dan Serfass

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## Welcome

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Adrian Murray called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and welcomed everyone. He mentioned that Diwali, an Indian holiday, was celebrated on October 24th.

He apologized to the attendees on the October Zoom meeting. There were issues with the audio that could not be repaired. Should these issues arise again, please refer to the meeting minutes that are posted on the school district website under the CAC for DEI.

Adrian 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 October Meeting Minutes

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

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## Unity Day 2022

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Unity Day, a National Day about bullying prevention, was held at Hoover and Eisenhower elementary on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff and students were encouraged to wear orange and anti-bullying activities were held at each school which included a "mix it up lunch". Students had lunch with other students that they normally don't eat or hang out with. This encourages new friendships, kindness, acceptance and inclusion. Tanisha mentioned that her daughter had a very positive experience. Going forward can we place this on our school calendar and find a way to include MS/HS as well as within our community?

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## Support for Neurodiverse Students and their Families

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Adrian provided an update on the proposed initiative for a Neurodiverse Club. In further discussions with teachers and leadership and for a variety of reasons, it became apparent that having a specific club was not the right course of action.

The YMCA posted a flyer about the Neurodiverse Network. It is an organization that provides resources to neurodivergent individuals and their families. With the availability of this network, we have changed our focus and determined that our focus should be on forming a parental support group. This would allow families of neurodiverse students to meet, share ideas, socialize and form friendships.

Adrian has had further discussions with the Bodhana group, a nonprofit organization that advocates the use of tabletop gaming as a therapy to enhance socialization and education. He has submitted an application to the Lion Foundation for a grant to cover the costs of training 6 individuals to oversee this group and to purchase board games. These trained individuals could then train others.

A new proposal will be submitted regarding starting a parent support group.

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## MLK Jr. Day of Service

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Tanisha made several calls to places looking for opportunities for students to volunteer. The library had little to offer but dusting but will get back if they come up with other ideas. The PA Food Bank is fully booked for groups of volunteers until February. She stated they still have single student availability. Minimum age is 14. She is still waiting to hear back from Trinity Lutheran and West Shore Baptist Churches. She will contact Bethesda Mission for any needs they may have.

Lolly has a call into New Hope Ministries.

Adrian mentioned the idea of bringing our students together, either in a school building area or borough hall, to make cards for Caitilin Smiles and make a kit for another organization. Some ideas of kits are welcome kits for refugees, health kits for the homeless etc.

A final proposal will be presented to the CEC for their 11/17 meeting with School Board approval in December so that we have time to solicit donations for our chosen projects.

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## Updates on Proposed CAC for DEI Initiatives

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Jessica gave an update on her uniform initiative with the Harrisburg School District that was not approved by the CEC. She has established a relationship with a counselor at Camp Curtain and has undertaken this initiative on her own. She spoke with the West Shore Baptist Church who has a clothing closet and she was allowed to come over and take any clothes that were appropriate to be used for uniforms. She is still looking for plain Polo shirts if anyone has any that they would like to donate.

Jessica met with Karen Mallah who suggested that sewing machines might be obtained and Camp Hill and Harrisburg residents could work together to make uniforms. Jessica along with the counselor at Camp Curtain are going to look at ways to possibly bring the Harrisburg students into our community to work alongside the Camp Hill students in the community.

David is in discussion with local historians to figure out the best way to tell the various histories of our region, such as the Civil War and segregation. He is also exploring the use of the digital platform.

He is also interested in looking at the school district data and any past surveys that were done. Autumn will be presenting district wide data at the upcoming school board work session that was obtained from the Leader in Me survey. She encouraged us to put a proposal together with exactly what information we want and she will take it forward.

David asked about any future meet and greets going to be held. Debbie had mentioned at October's meeting that an evening one might be planned at the library in the near future.

Emily shared that she started the Pen Pal project with her guidance students in her school district. She is impressed with how easy it was to set up and the oversight of the program. Her students are able to look at photos of other schools/cities and then post questions to those students to spark conversations. All postings are reviewed by the program before being sent. Her students have really enjoyed this experience and she will continue to update us as the year progresses.

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

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Jonathan Casey asked that we spread the word that there is a Rotary exchange student in Camp Hill that is need of a home starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. He is a 17-year-old gentleman from the Czech Republic who speaks perfect English, is a great kid, quiet, loves art and to ski. It would be for 3 months. If you or anyone you know in the area is interested, please contact Jonathan.

Tiena was unable to join us at last month's meeting so committee members introduced themselves. Tiena asked about any initiatives that we might do with homeless/women/animal shelters. Some areas would be serving food, yardwork, shoveling snow, baby supply needs, and taking care of animals.

It was mentioned as we find information about places that need volunteers, we could pass that information to the HS counselors for students that are in need of service hours.

Adrian reviewed where we started, our mission, initiatives, proposals, and approval process. Autumn reminded us that although the process may seem slow, in her opinion, we have made great progress laying the ground work for this committee.

Discussion about adding committee information on the school district website, such as our mission statement. Items that have already been school board approved are okay to add, items that have not been board approved would have to have their approval first. Autumn can work with staff to have items added.

Betsy will add our email address to all future meeting minutes.

Christina inquired about the Lion Foundation grant program deadlines. She reminded us that we are an Advisory committee so we can advise the district to do or not do things.

Adrian mentioned having more discussion about how to reach out to new families within Camp Hill.

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 7:20 pm

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