

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2011, 7:30 AM
Room 201
Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Nick Rudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Maggie Mudd, Glenn Lau-Kee, Barbara Butler

The meeting was called to order at 7:30AM.

New Business:

What's Up

- 1) Y.E.S. for Diversity (Youth Empowerment Summit) will be held on Friday, November 4, 2011, at The Artists Collective, in Hartford from 8-2:30. The summit features Alvin Terrell, Founder, Social Centric Training and Consulting, Phoenix, AZ.

Action:

- a) We'll talk to Staples about having some of our students attend the session.
- b) We could fund Open Choice kids to go. Barbara will check with Elaine to see who is going.
- c) Maggie will talk to PTA Leadership to find out what student organizations have been contacted.

Racism is not usually considered a character default. This session is not about dealing with poor 'people of color', but about how you can show respect and get along. We hope this session will get to the kids appropriately. (James D'Amico) could be key from the point of view of this session.

Programming Ideas—

We further explored the idea about *The Help* [movie and book] as a subject for a conversation.

Considerations:

- What's the hook?
- How do people differ from the 60s?
- Why do people like the movie?

Actions:

- Discuss with the Library (Book Club approach, programming approach).
- Discuss with the Playhouse (Do we have any connection to someone who appeared in or made the movie?).
- Maybe a panel discussion would be good. For example, we could talk about whether or not you could film *The Help* in Westport today?
- We could also invite a historian to do the reality check and invite people who've lived it or have studied it historically, etc. in order to interject historical experiences.

Why a conversation:

If we can get people talking, people should be more comfortable about discussing issues such as race. Interaction helps destroy stereotypes.

- 1) One of the biggest issues in the school community is bullying. There are also many programs in the schools about bullying. These programs, however, don't show how to deal with difference (for example, mean girls stuff).

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Action:

- a. Talk to Open Choice kids (graduates) to get their experiences.
 - b. Cultural experience of going back to their roots means a lot to kids of color. The approach should take advantage of the fact that kids today have a broader palette culturally. Question is what is the reality?
- 2) We could explore the aspect of Global Skills (21st Century Skills) vs. Diversity (Affirmative Action).
- 3) "Will affirmative action prevent my kid from getting a spot in college" might be another topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 9AM.

The next meeting will be November 2, 2011, at 7:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted.

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary