



Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2011, 7:30 AM
Room 201 Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Barbara Butler, Glenn Lau-Kee, Nick Rudd, Catherine , Stuart Losen, Patricia Wei, Michael Ross

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

New Business

Harold remarked on Susan Killian's positive contributions to the efforts of TEAM Westport and on her personal drive for diversity. Although she had gotten bad news about her health last December, she continued working on the things she loved up to the moment of her death. The group resolved to honor her with a donation to a cause selected by her family.

Michael Ross, Artistic Director of the Westport County Playhouse, briefed TEAM Westport on the Playhouse's plans for rolling out "A Raisin in the Sun", which will have a run of 35 performances commencing in the fall of 2012. The Playhouse never has previously performed this play. Phylicia Rashad, who is presently teaching at Fordham University in New York, will direct this production. The group discussed with Ross various ways to develop a dialogue among theatre-goers on the subjects raised by the play, including "talk-backs" following performances; getting the PBS treatment and earlier Hollywood versions of the play shown at the Westport Library; getting the Westport Film Initiative to show "The Help"; enlisting book clubs to read the play; starting an on-line salon to discuss the play's themes; getting actors who starred in earlier versions of the play to come discuss the impact the play had when they were performing in it, etc.

Ross also suggested TEAM Westport think in the same fashion about another play the Playhouse will be presenting called "Harbor," about a gay couple who find themselves raising some one else's teen child. The group agreed to pursue this, including trying to attract to Westport the gay woman military service veteran, Carmen Cardona, whose discrimination case against the Department of Veterans Affairs has been referred to the Supreme Court. Other topics under exploration are raising gay teens and helping children deal with issues that emerge when a parent announces he/she is gay. The group will consult with Dan Woog on these questions.

Program Committee Report:

Patricia mentioned two documentaries that have been produced by a Chinese-American named Lee Mun Wah-"If Halls Could Talk" and "The Color of Fear"-that could be useful to bring to Westport. Wah is a teacher from Oakland, Ca. who has devoted himself to reducing discrimination and encouraging peace-making following the murder of his mother. He may be coming soon to Yale to present his film, "The Color of Fear", which might provide an opening for us to attract him to Westport.

Education Committee Report

Patricia agreed to contact Liz Camm, who has assumed part of Brian Fagan's responsibilities, to invite her to an upcoming meeting.

Maggie agreed to contact Brett Aronow to arrange an upcoming meeting with Harold, Judy, Patricia and Maggie to discuss ways in which TEAM Westport and the PTA can cooperate more fully in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2011, at 7:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Mudd



Together Effectively Achieving Multiculturalism

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Acting Secretary