

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2013, 7:30 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Susan Ellis, Maggie Mudd, Judy Hamer, Brett Aronow, Dolores Paoli, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Bernicestine McLeod, Harold Bailey (Presiding)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM.

Catherine made a motion to accept the September 3, 2013, meeting minutes. Maggie seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Business

What's Up?

1. The U.S. government is not.
2. The U.S. Attorney General is bringing a suit against North Carolina over voting rights.
3. The Social Justice group from the Unitarian church is offering to get involved more.
4. Catherine mentioned an article in the NYT about how closing the inequality gap on college campuses is seen as threatening the preservation of elite status of other students and their admission rate including those who have legacy – i.e., their parent(s) are alumni.

Old Business

- Programming Strategy and Gameplan
 - Eyes on the Prize
 - 1) We have completed 3 of the sessions that have been very, very good. Catherine has suggested a moderator for our one remaining uncovered session. Comments, thus far, are that this series has been quite revealing and educational.
 - 2) Kelle Ruden, the Programs/Community Relations Director at the Library, is back from vacation. Publicity for the remaining sessions should be on the website. Our speaker, Dr. Yohuru Williams, coming on October 22nd, should be publicized more extensively.
 - 3) Cathy Schager, a Social Studies teacher from Staples, will be moderating the 5th and/or the 7th session and will be encouraging attendance by students, perhaps giving them credit. The feeling is that they will be captivated once they come. The high school does see episodes in the spring during the discussion of American history. Now it is coupled with a discussion on poverty. (?)
 - 4) In terms of metrics, the objective might have been to fill the room. However, success can be measured by the discussion, the awareness, the acknowledgement, and then the action versus the numbers attending. Input around the table has been honest.
 - 5) Suggestion: to hold these at Staples vs. the library. This would make it easier for the students. The approach we're taking with the high school is to identify and give them the resources available and let each teacher decide how to implement. See 'Social Studies Resource Form' discussed later in the meeting.
 - 6) To publicize, post on your own Facebook page and refer to the TEAM Westport page. We can also post as an event on Facebook. The TEAM Westport page already lists the series.
 - Conversations – ongoing.
- Education Committee
 - Diversity Essay Contest (Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexual Orientation)

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- Action:
 - Susan will get the demographics on the %-ages of racial and ethnic groups according to the most recent census, particularly those of teens and children.
 - The committee will rewrite the essay topic based upon today's discussion and get it back out to the group.
 - Dolores is still working on sponsors. We will try going to companies in the community and members of the Downtown Merchants Association although often branches of corporations do not support the local community.
 - We'll consider doing a second prize at \$500.
 - We'll talk to civic organizations and churches for support.
 - We will look at the Rotary and Library as sponsors.
 - Maggie will contact someone to design a small poster to be distributed.
Action: Send TEAM logo to Maggie.
 - Make sure to contact the high schools and push for Julie Heller, English Department chair, to come. We'll also contact the Guidance Department as well as Social Studies.
- Social Studies Resource Survey
 - Action:
 - Fill the form out for the high school so that it can be used by the staff.
 - Contact friends and spouses.
 - List families and resources available in the community from other parts of the world.
 - Have other organizations offer resources as well.
- Board of Education – Mission
 - How to prepare our kids with regard to 21st Century Skills
 - Global Outlook included
 - 2025 Day coming up in November to discuss
 - Students have to be able to use technology and work with groups collaboratively.
- Marketing Committee
 - Reading Recommendations – Brett will send out the form again to Catherine for us to submit entries. This will be used similarly to the 'Social Studies Resource Survey.'
- Membership of TEAM Westport
 - Consider creating an Advisory group to be composed of low activity members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 7:30 AM in Room 201 of Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernicestine E. McLeod