

# TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2013, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

**Attendees:** Judy Hamer, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Brett Aronow, Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, and Melinda McMillen

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for May and June were approved with corrections and will be posted.

## New Business

### What's Up?

1. On NPR this morning there was a story about a 13-year student in Danbury who brought a knife to school. He was taken to Bridgeport and entered into the criminal justice system. Harold was bothered that he would be taken to jail. Most likely, this is different from what would happen in a suburban area. In Westport there is a 'no-strike' rule and he would need to be expelled. Then he would be home-schooled or have to attend another school.  
Is this discussion a possible program? Perhaps this can be part of one of the discussions during the showing of *Eyes on the Prize* (mid 50s – mid 80s).
2. There was a show on PBS about Public Defenders and their heavy case loads. 95% of cases are plea-bargained. Public defenders are not making money, yet there's no one else to do the work. A lot who plea are predominantly minority, male, not guilty. This can also be a tie-in for one of the discussions during the showing of *Eyes on the Prize*. Invite people to offer suggestions of speakers.

## Old Business

### Programming Strategy and Gameplan

1. The showing of *Eyes on the Prize* in September corresponds with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the March on DC. How should we excerpt and discuss the series since there are 14 hours of video and we have 14 hours allotted to show and discuss the series? We should focus on which 7 hours of video we'd like to show based on issues that will have contemporary importance. We should also think about speakers who would tie in for discussion purposes and to lead conversations.  
Action: Each of us will take one of the seven DVDs and review to recommend the topics to be discussed. Maggie will poll to see when we should meet to plan our program and Brett will set up a Google Doc to receive feedback as we review the DVDs. Assignments:  
Harold #1, Melinda #2, Catherine #3, Brett #4, Judy #5, Bernicestine #6, Maggie #7.
2. We are creating book lists for teachers per our discussion with James D'Amico last month. Also, we want to post on our website the TEAM Westport Reading list consisting of books we have read and have liked on diversity topics. Some recommendations are: Whistling Vivaldi by Claude Steele; Paula Giddings' When and Where I Enter.  
Action: Judy can come up with reading lists for the library and the website. Perhaps there will be a different list for teachers. Catherine is recording the list and will post it.

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## TEAM Westport Programming

1. Consider reading and discussing American Dervish in October.
2. We still are considering having a conversation about Clinging to Mammy vs. The Help. The Help, in particular, conveys history from a white person's point of view but may be perceived as African-American history and as factual when we know that the truth would be so different.

## Education Committee

### Staples Award Recap

Harold presented both awards to our two awardees in June at the Honors Assembly at Staples.

### Social Studies Follow-up

#### Action:

- a. Harold will create a Google Doc to communicate to James D'Amico names of people from the community as well as their backgrounds who could speak at classes at Staples.
- b. We will also schedule a meeting with Julie Heller through James D'Amico for the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9AM.

We will not meet in August; however, there will be a special meeting scheduled separately to plan for the September showing of *Eyes on the Prize*. The next meeting of TEAM Westport will take place on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, at 7:30 AM in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary