



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2013, 7:30 AM

Room 201

Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Maggie Mudd, Susan Ellis, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Brett Aronow, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Steve Daniels, Dolores Paoli, and Barbara Butler

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

A motion was made by Maggie and seconded by Brett to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2013, meeting of TEAM Westport. The motion passed.

New Business:

- What's Up:

We discussed two items that appeared in the news recently.

- 1) We heard the piece "When you're mixed race, just one box is not enough" on NPR as we drove in this morning. This is one of the conversations in Michelle Norris': *The Race Card Project* (where thousands of people have submitted their thoughts on race and cultural identity by using only six words to describe their experiences.) We discussed the effect upon children in being able to specify their identity when asked on forms; also, how it is becoming more necessary for Census records to allow multiple boxes as the number of people who are of mixed race or are multiracial increases. For example, President Obama is as white as he is black.
- 2) We talked about the article that appeared in the NY Times about the inability of colleges (particularly the 'elite' colleges) to attract lower income kids. Will this affect kids at the upper income end and their admission rates? College admissions dynamics have changed considering the pressure to admit more international students and the need for funding resources. How are the colleges addressing this?

Old Business:

- Programming Strategy and Game Plan

- 1) Jim Downs will be at the Westport Library tomorrow at 7:30 PM to discuss his book Sick from Freedom – similar in a way to the Trail of Tears – but about the number of freed men and women and children who died after the Civil War ended. It talks about the history of disparity and the pattern of discrimination in health care.

Action: We need to get the word out to the town and to the schools.

- 2) James Basker will be at the Westport Library on May 9th at 7:30 PM to discuss the book he edited entitled American Antislavery Writings: Colonial Beginnings to Emancipation.

Action: a. Catherine will write a press release and distribute to our email list.

b. We are trying to get students to attend, so we'll get the word out to Staples.

c. We'll post on Facebook and the website.

d. Our tag line is: 'Our journey from Emancipation to Civil Rights' – a theme we'll use until June 2014. We'll also include a link to our website and 'Like us on Facebook' always.



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3) Our programming should raise awareness particularly among students in town. Any event including our Conversation series, etc. should be focused on the future with today as the point of reference. It should be relevant to today and how it ties to us in Westport. Maybe recommend a TEAM Westport book of the month – especially to broaden kids' perspectives. We still need to reach out to other communities.

4) How should we celebrate our 10th year – this year or next?

- Education Committee
 - 1) The Staples Award is in progress.
 - 2) We need to do more outreach to the school counselors and psychologists about TEAM Westport.

Action: Create a background piece and figure out how to distribute this every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine E. McLeod
Secretary