

TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2013, 7:30 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

The meeting was called to order at 7:37AM.

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

Approval of Minutes: Catherine moved to accept the minutes of our November 5, 2013, meeting. Maggie seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Business:

What's Up?

Dolores visited Dubai recently and was impressed by the diversity there. It seems to be more accepted. With Westport's adoption of the 21st Century curriculum in our schools, being a member of the global community is more heavily emphasized. This is becoming more prevalent as the State Department, for example, is encouraging kids to travel and learn other languages.

Scholars are beginning to evaluate parenting in this country – from an early age now parents are directing their kids every step of the way. What does this achieve? Kids are undereducated. As a culture, our emphasis on achievement in sports should be more balanced with our emphasis on academics so that students are better well-rounded.

Old Business:

Education committee

Diversity Essay Contest

We fine-tuned the essay contest materials and the website placement of information about it. We talked about how to publicize the contest: use the town email list and place flyers around town; also talk to the Library and the Interfaith Council. Our press release will be issued.

Action: Harold will schedule a meeting with John Dodig at Staples High School to discuss the contest. Maggie will contact newspapers and send posters to schools electronically. The committee will work on identifying the judges.

We still should look into establishing a TEAM Westport committee at Staples for students.

Programming Strategy and Game Plan

- 1) Westport Country Playhouse – *Intimate Apparel* –
Action: Harold will schedule a meeting with David Kennedy at the Playhouse to discuss TEAM Westport's involvement with community activities surrounding the performance next October.
- 2) Susan noted that the Greenwich Historical Society identified slave owners in Greenwich and used that as a program theme. We can do something similar here with the Westport Historical Society especially since we know that stations of the Underground Railroad were here.
- 3) Maggie announced that Daniel Markey will appear at the Library on January 8th at 7. He is an expert on Pakistan and has authored the book No Exit from Pakistan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10AM.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine E. McLeod
Secretary