



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2015, 8:00 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

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

Guests: Ramin Ganeshram and Savitri Horrigan

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM by Harold Bailey.

Approval of Minutes: Two corrections were suggested to the minutes of March 3, 2015. Susan moved and Judy seconded that the minutes be approved with corrections. The minutes will be posted.

NEW BUSINESS

What's up?

1. We had a great event last night featuring the Essay Contest 2015 winners.
2. We have heard that the Library will receive a donation of diverse books as a result of the "Westport Kids Need Diverse Books" campaign.
3. There was a recommendation that we watch the HBO special on Frank Sinatra who was quite vocal about race.
4. The movie *Paper Clips* about the Holocaust is being shown at the Unitarian Church at 7 on Sunday. It's a very powerful movie.
5. The Interfaith Council is starting to plan for MLK Day 2016. Ideas are welcomed especially something that will get people engaged.

OLD BUSINESS

Education:

Essay Contest:

- It was good to continue our partnership with the Library.
- We need to review the task list for conducting the Essay Contest and awards session that had been put together before and update it.
- Going forward, we should debrief the process and evaluate.

Board of Education:

- Many of us attended the March 25th session at Staples on the Fifth Domain as discussed at previous meetings.
- We debriefed about the evening. Each of us was in a different breakout group and gauged community reaction to the proposal that our curricula and education include more courses and mechanisms to instill "caring" within our students.

Programming:

'Westport Kids Need More Diverse Books':

We will investigate establishing a "diverse" book club and discussion group for teens at the Library.



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Together Effectively Achieving Multiculturalism

Westport Library Speakers:

- We will reinvestigate an idea to host public discussion sessions about social subjects and current events on a regular basis as issues happen.
- In addition, we can return to our former "Community Conversations" format by selecting books and subject matter experts for scheduled conversations (say 4 times a year).

The town will have a new library director, new principal at Staples, and a new YMCA director so this is an opportune time to establish a new concept. We could look at ways to introduce diversity discussions even among young children. A puppet theater, for example, might be a way to engage them.

We could partner with Fairfield University, for example, and we should think about our own contacts to see who we might be able to bring in including people who are used to driving discussions like professors or high school teachers.

Additionally, we should consider leveraging social media for conversations. Social media can elicit an amazing response. We can limit the reaction via 'hashtag'. This would engage younger people and can bring others outside of our immediate community into discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30AM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 8:00 AM in Room 201 at Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary