



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2016, 8:00 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

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

Guests: Dennis Wong (Sunrise Rotary, Westport)

The meeting was called to order at 8:09AM.

Approval of Minutes: We had two sets of minutes to approve. A motion to approve the February 2nd, 2016 minutes was made by Susan and seconded by Brett. A motion to approve the March 1st, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Brett and seconded by Dolores. Both motions carried unanimously. Both sets of minutes were approved.

New Business:

What's Up

1. Dennis Wong gave an overview about the Sunrise Rotary. This Rotary chapter is currently 28 years old and has 80 members. Our two organizations may be able to partner in endeavors such as bringing Westport students together with Bridgeport students.
2. Susan Ross has written a young adult book about a Somali family that moves to Maine (Kiki and Jacques). She has been talking to kids in Bridgeport and to students in Lewiston, Maine.

Old Business:

Programming

1. Essay Contest: We have all 3 judges in place and have had entries from students. The contest is now closed. Our winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Westport Library on Monday, May 16th at 6:30PM.
We are still working on obtaining sponsors for the prize money. We have some of it raised, but need additional sponsors.
2. James Baldwin Recap: This was a well-attended event on March 12th at the Westport Library and a nicely done documentary. It would have been helpful to have had a speaker to set context since the film assumed a lot of knowledge about Baldwin and his works. For various reasons, there MAY not be a general knowledge about him, especially among students. Is his work part of school curricula, for example?
3. 'Westport Kids Need More Diverse Books': This is still in progress.
4. Youth Engagement: We had an initial meeting with 2 Staples students in February. Since many activities have happened over the past few months at school and more will take place in the months before school closes for the summer, we are positioning for the Fall.
5. Follow-on Conversations: We have yet to schedule our planned conversations and discussed where, when, how, and who. Members suggested ideas, but this is still under discussion. We'd like to have open ended, interactive sessions whatever the decision. We have two topics that we have planned



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to address: (a) “What do we tell our Children” (with regard to diversity) and (b) “Policing within the Bubble”.

6. Project Implicit: We have taken the test ourselves and will have a discussion. However, how should we introduce this as a tool to be used on a wider basis and how should it be handled if we do use it?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8AM on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary