

Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

A recording of this meeting can be seen here:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/woodbridgect/lr.php?RCID=96d9b024fea84007aba9d603feea13e2>

In attendance: Chair Ellen Scalettar, Vice Chair Robert Reed, Neelima Kaushal, Joanna Ali, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Beecher liaison Tahera Parvez and staff Betsy Yagla.

At 6:33 Chair Ellen Scalettar called the meeting to order.

1. Opening Circle: Dr. Kaushal shared the poem “Where the Mind is Without Fear.”
2. Superintendent’s Committee Liaison: The committee welcome Tahera Parvez as the liaison from the school; Ms. Scalettar is the liaison to the school’s committee.
3. Coordination with BRS: The group discussed collaboration with the school and the other diversity groups in town.
4. Book Selection & Diversity Event: Ms. Scalettar made a motion to choose the book “Just Mercy” and Ms. Ferrante Fernandes seconded.

Following a discussion, Ms. Scalettar withdrew the motion, and Ms. Ferrante Fernandes withdrew her second. Ms. Ferrante Fernandes made a motion to choose “American Like Me.” Ms. Scalettar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The event will have a “Woodbridge Like Me” theme. At the next meeting the committee will discuss creating a planning committee.

5. Black Lives Matter issue at Amity Regional High School: The committee agreed to invite the Superintendent or her designee to the next meeting to discuss next steps.

6. Updates and Announcements: Ms. Scalett shared that the Annual Town Meeting was recessed and will be rescheduled for June 2.

7. Ms. Scalett volunteered to be the next Opening Circle leader.

8. April Minutes: The committee reviewed the meeting minutes. Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Ali seconded. Ms. Scalett abstained; all others were in favor; the motion passed.

9. Ms. Ferrante Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33. Dr. Kaushal seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned.