



Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Special Meeting Minutes -- Draft

June 29, 2022, 6:30 pm

Woodbridge Town Library – Meeting Room

Present: Chair Ellen Scalettar, Vice Chair Tahera Parvez, Mohini Ranganathan, Steven Lawrence, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, David Franklin

Ms. Scalettar called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Ms. Scalettar welcomed District Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars who was at the meeting.

Opening Circle

Ms. Parvez read the picture book *Everywhere Babies* written by Susan Meyers and illustrated by Marla Frazee. It was noted that this popular, whimsical-rhyming book celebrating babies is on a list along with other books targeted to be banned from school libraries by a Florida group for what the group considers inappropriate images. Discussion ensued.

Survey Updates

Regarding the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey, Steven Lawrence reported over 600 usable surveys were received. Survey findings will be worked on over the summer months. Results will help guide the committee with its work and potentially serve as an educational tool.

Amity Referendum: DEI Issues

Dr. Byars reported on the hiring of a DEI Instructional Coach and answered a variety of questions from DEI Committee members.

Dr. Byars explained that the DEI coach is a member of the Amity faculty. It is anticipated that the coach will assist teaching staff by helping with material selections, modeling as needed, offering feedback/suggestions, and finding resources. The goals include: ensuring that all students receive academic experiences that reflect the diversity of our local and global community; assuring that every student has the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging and connection; and helping the district meet its mission to prepare caring and effective world citizens. It is expected that the district's website will be updated with a section relating to this position.

Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading in Community

The May reading led by Reverend Antona Brent Smith was a success.

Woodbridge Like Me Day 2022

While discussion was deferred to next meeting, Ms. Scalettar suggested the group think about how best to proceed with this event. Leadership roles were suggested as a possibility to allow specific tasks to be accomplished between meetings.

Recognizing Cultural, Ethnic and Other Noteworthy Events and Celebrations

Ms. Ranganathan reported that she has compiled a list, but feels attention needs to be given to content and process. The possibility of the committee using social media was mentioned. Discussion ensued. Follow up with Town staff will take place regarding social media.

Earth Day 2022 Review

Earth Day 2022 was summarized as being a great community event.

Minutes

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes.

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Opening Circle Volunteer

Ms. Xu will lead the Opening Circle at the next meeting.

Other Updates & Announcements

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes noted that CUPOP will be working on making public spaces ADA accessible and mentioned that DEI may want to participate in this project.

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes expressed interest in hybrid meetings.

Adjournment

Ms. Ranganathan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Scalettar seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: *Toni Belenski*