



Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Woodbridge Library Meeting Room

Present: Co-Chairs Ellen Scalettar (left 7:15 pm) and Tahera Parvez, Javier Aviles, Ke Xu, David Franklin, Lor Ferrante Fernandes (arrived 6:43 pm)

1. Chair Parvez called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

2. **Opening Circle**

Ke Xu opened the meeting expressing heartfelt emotions relating to the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza; lyrics from a song emphasizing peace and non-violence was referenced. Open discussion followed.

3. **Outreach Initiative & Updates**

Relating to the September meeting, the **To the Editor** letter drafted by the Committee was submitted to the Woodbridge Town News. While not published, it is hoped that the letter will be included in the upcoming publication. Committee members will make an ongoing attempt to attend Amity BOE meetings in support of their DEI efforts.

Initiative ideas discussed include a DEI Open House, a Community Conversation, and more.

David Franklin noted B'nai Jacob will host an interfaith choir event on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Also, with grant funds received, an intercommunity choir will be developed for a Martin Luther King celebration.

4. **Woodbridge Like Me Day: Highlights & Take Aways**

It was unanimously expressed that the WLM Day was a huge success. Many advantages were noted at holding the event indoors at the Amity High School.

For 2024 WLM Day planning, a list of Woodbridge Faith Groups will be created so that a meeting may take place regarding next year's event.

5. **September Minutes** – Vote was deferred as there was no quorum.

6. **Opening Circle Volunteer for the November 15 Meeting:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*