



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

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Woodbridge Library Meeting Room

Present: Co-Chairs Ellen Scalettar and Tahera Parvez, David Franklin, Steven Lawrence, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Sofia Morales, Mohini Ranganathan (arrived 7:12 pm)

Guest: Peter Downhour, DEI Coach at Amity Regional High School

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

2. **Opening Circle**

Lor Ferrante Fernandes opened the meeting with reading an article by Dr. Ibram Kendi that focused on developing daily practices and strategies to help reject racism. Discussion ensued.

3. **Outreach Initiative & Updates**

To support the Amity BOE DEI efforts, members from the Woodbridge DEI Committee will plan to attend each meeting. The Amity BOE meeting schedule was reviewed.

For 2024, the Committee would like to engage in meaningful activities that are manageable for a volunteer group. Many ideas were discussed. Next steps will be to select specific activities for the 2024 calendar.

B'nai Jacob will host an interfaith choir event on the Monday before Thanksgiving and an intercommunity choir event for a Martin Luther King celebration on January 12.

4. **Woodbridge Like Me (WLM) Day - 2024 Planning**

The DEI Committee received positive feedback relating to 2023 WLM Day event being held indoors at Amity Regional High School. The many benefits of holding the event at this location were discussed.

5. **September & October Minutes**

Motion: Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned to accept September and October Minutes. Ellen Scalettar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote Yes: Ellen Scalettar, Tahera Parvez, David Franklin, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Steven Lawrence, Sofia Morales, Mohini Ranganathan

6. **Next Meeting**

The December 20 Regular Meeting will be cancelled. The next DEI Regular Meeting will be held January 17.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*