

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

6 pm – 7:30 pm

In attendance: Allene Swienckowski (she/her), Joe Major (he/him), John Hall (he/him), Sara Campbell (she/her), Ann Raynolds (she/her), Giavanna Munafo (she/her)

6:03 PM Call to Order

Approve Minutes from April 21, 2021

- Amend: Ann moves to amend with addition of Racial Harassment and Discrimination Response Subcommittee charge
- Motion: Sara moves to pass with amendment, seconded by Joe
- Passed, with amendment, unanimously

6:05 PM Acknowledge and welcome community members

- Pat Autilio, Brigid Ambrust, Molly Ambrust

6:10 PM Welcome OQS Family Equity Team

- Guests unavailable
- Update: OQS Family Equity Team planning a play by 5th graders about equity and inclusion before going off to middle school

6:09 PM Juneteenth 2021

- Beginning to get commitments from speakers, officials; exploring ideas for various groups/individuals to contribute
- Discussed ways to engage the community; importance of engaging students especially (perhaps HHS chair or other performing groups?)
- Allene will clarify best ways to communicate with the schools
- Brown bag or such available at no cost (for unhoused or others without); discussed how to estimate numbers of unhoused
- Discussed placement of “ads”/info.
- Will review and approve info for promoting the event at next meeting

6:39 PM Break-Out Subcommittee Meetings

7:00 PM Subcommittees return to full committee

Subcommittee Chairs' Reports:

Policy

- Subcommittee crafted outreach to town manager, sent it, and received a very receptive response; work must be done, no plan in place now, level of consistency among depts varies wildly; town manager has policy management system in mind
- Very positive interactions

Racial Harassment & Discrimination Response

- Ann reporting on meeting with acting chief USE HER MINUTES

Education

- Diversity Coordinator hire
 - Melissa Wyman equity group at HHS told M & B
 - No school-wide announcement
 - Discouraging, it's been a month or so
 - Ask Tom have we announced, can we have a bio, is she going to be part of the community engagement in a couple of weeks, etc.? Maybe Coach is the best place to go. Allene will email them both. Do you have a plan? It's good press. Parents need to know, everyone should know. Can we help?
- Hartford High School
 - Have started reviewing survey results; got borderline statistically valid completion rate; still useful; goals to put together a plan from the data to share with the new district diversity coordinator
 - Awareness of antiracism policy higher than expected; respondents likely more informed students; clear need for engagement with policy in classrooms
 - Allene recently provided two lessons with HHS classes on redlining; students so interested yet we are not giving them the tools and info.; focus on how history is taught
 - Curriculum infusion so ripe but students feel they can't influence that; survey says not to embed DEI engagement in Advisory; how to get into classrooms or other spaces?
 - Div. Coordinator is charged with curriculum review
- Resource library feedback and suggestions
 - Very positive feedback so far
 - Discussed Act 1 Social Justice Caucus; Allene to follow up

7:23 PM **New Business**
None

7:25 **PM Adjournment**

- Sara moves to adjourn, Joe seconds