

Reports

Chariho Regional School District

Anti-Racism Task Force
Minutes of March 3, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

ENCLOSURE **XA-1**

Present: (Quorum = 6) *Maija Hill, endawnis Spears, Darthula Mathews, Dan Fitzgerald, Katie Kirakosian, Joseph Lopes, Joseph Reddish, Heidi Fee, Jess Avizinis.*

Guests: *Sabrina Rubenstein, Community Member, Lisa Macaruso and Gina Picard.*

I. Call to Order – Maija Hill (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve 2/3/21 minutes by Joe Reddish and seconded by Dan Fitzgerald. Vote- Aye- Unanimous

III. Chariho Interact Club's Black History Month Virtual Event Presentation – Sabrina Rubenstein spoke about the virtual event and the associated YouTube Video that can be found under her name "Sabrina Muñoz Rubenstein." Sabrina explained that the Interact Club's focus is community service, charitable donations, helping the community, donations of sanitary products in the restrooms at schools etc. Sabrina described the event as having a lot of participation and discussion on being good allies.

IV. Anti-Task Force Draft Webpage Proposal to the School Committee

Gina Picard--last meeting ARTF expressed concerns about webpage and how it wasn't very comprehensive. A draft improvement is under construction. Chariho Anti-Racism Task Force (CARTF) members were asked to give a quick intro about why they are participating. Community input was given that website enhancement, ability to find website and meetings would be appreciated. Suggestion to lead website with the motion that was approved and the mission. Discussion followed that also posted should be agreed upon definitions or explicit definitions and that CARTF recommendations are driven by data and fact, not feelings or opinions.

V. Subcommittee Reports

A. Policy--Dan Fitzgerald provided updates along with Darthula Matthews, Joe Reddish and endawnis Spears. This subcommittee reported preparing for presentation to the school committee 3/9 including the recommendations for the district policy by tier. Welcomed the public to attend the 3/9 school committee meeting to hear the discussion that follows the presentation.

B. Practices---Dan Fitzgerald reported the Practices subcommittee includes Katie Kirakosian, Carla Laroche-Harris and Thawn Harris. They are due to present to the Chariho School committee on 3/23. Dan shared draft presentation using the same format and changes at Tier level. Recommendation will be made for a permanent sub-committee with a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion focus etc.

C. Curriculum--Jess Avizinis presented an overview of the curriculum subcommittee recommendations. They will use same format as other subcommittees when presenting to the Chariho School Committee on 4/13. endawnis Spears added that within the Curriculum subcommittee recommendation includes making resources available for all kinds of educators and communities. These resources would take advantage of the opportunities we have in this locale to learn about Tribal Sovereignty and Treaties etc. to ensure that pertinent information is embedded in curricula.

VI. School Committee Liaison Report

A. Welcome larger community--Lisa Macaruso--Because there has been robust conversation online, we wanted to make sure everyone feels welcome at this meeting to ensure these conversations happen transparently. Chair has granted permission to express that we welcome open conversations. Encouraging all to come to task force or School Committee meetings to ask questions or express concerns.

B. Clarification of terms--The terms decolonization and anti-racism will be used a lot in CARTF discussions. We will operate under shared definitions and what they mean to our group and this should be included on the website. The CARTF should come up with those definitions.

i. Anti-racism--racism exists everywhere across the globe and "anti-racism" means those with racial power have created laws, systems that met the needs of that racial group but anti-racism is about sharing power across all racial

groups. All the systems were built for whiteness in this country because that is who was in power. This work requires action.

ii. Decolonization--provide a balanced narrative inclusive of all stories including those of indigenous/tribal populations. Black history doesn't start with slavery. Colonistic point of view. Request for professional development around courageous conversations was made and a question raised regarding whether or not CARTF plans to make specific recommendations regarding professional development, resources etc. The CARTF will be.

Definitions will be sent to CARTF Chair and Superintendent. Superintendent would have to present to School Committee the recommendations

VII. Next Meeting Date

April 7th at 7pm

VIII. Future Agenda Items

Katie Kirakosian motion: Draft a list of terms/definitions accessible for discussion for the website

Joe Lopes: seconded

vote: unanimous

Dan Fitzgerald motion: Have a touch-point to debrief the two school committee meeting presentations' feedback

Second: Joe Reddish

vote: unanimous

Joe Reddish motion: Have a standing agenda item at the end of CARTF meetings for the public to comment on agenda items.

Superintendent reminded CARTF that legal council says only specific current events may be discussed if presented on the agenda ahead of time and that agenda items may be submitted prior to the upcoming meeting if they're in by Monday of the week prior.

IX. Adjournment

Joe Reddish motion to adjourn Joe Lopes seconded, unanimous vote 8:58pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Avizinis
Clerk