

## Student Voice and Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

June 8, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.

Canton High School Room 127

Committee Attendees: Alexander Hawkins, Emma Jordan, Haidy Zhang, Sera Bales, Josh Patterson, Cecilia Bermudez, Nylah Brown, Nora LaPointe, Jacob Jackson, Ken Pamplona, Judi Pawar, Lauren Christenson, Anupam Sidhu, Shawn Wilson, Dr. Monica Merritt and Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Jennifer Vox

1. Meeting called to order at 4:07pm by Committee Chair Wilson. Attendees introduced.
2. Symposium update
  - Nylah Brown meeting session: Goal was to make people feel comfortable talking about race. Watched several videos to start conversations about differences. People shared many stories about their experiences with racism and how it related to the videos shown. Nyla felt that a safe space was created for people to feel comfortable talking and sharing.
  - Mr. Wilson meeting session: Discussion on wealth and race. Session was very interactive. Mr. Wilson explained historical reasons for wealth gaps based on race where billions of dollars were going to only one race. Examples are Homestead Act, GI Bill and 1930's New Deal. Discussion transitioned to the present situation and how very few people of color have access to money through government programs such as Small Business loans. The racial wealth gap was discussed to be systemic and Mr. Wilson challenged students to come up with policy-based solutions. Students discussed the most important policies created would create equality. Student feedback reported that it was great to incorporate things learned in school and how they relate to the real world.
3. The Meeting notes from May 31, 2022, were reviewed. Three minutes were given to look through minutes from June 8, 2022. The June 8, 2022 minutes were approved.
  - a. No barriers were missing
  - b. No resolutions were missing
  - c. Nothing missing from the discussion about the application process and who should be invited discussion about process

4. Update on barriers. Ms. Sidhu looked into a barrier discussed at the previous meeting. She spoke with Courtney at the Block Program sponsored by Canton Township.

Options they provide:

- A. The Block Program has a regular program with a cost of \$600 per child. The program can provide space for both middle school and high school students. Eleven students per school can be picked up.
- B. Canton express program can pick up students from any school or Block Program to their home. The cost is \$500.

Both options fill up quickly and need to be registered for by July.

Courtney is going back to her superior and looking into an ala carte deal for P-CCS. Expected details for us by July.

Jacob Jackson likes this amazing opportunity for middle school and high school kids, especially the middle school students who cannot drive. Discussion on possibility for P-CCS transportation taking middle school kids to one middle school and then the Block van getting all students there.

There is open space to hold meetings. The Block is in the Cherry Hill area which is possibly too far away for our students. Member Sidhu reported that Courtney spoke very highly of students and would like to help out P-CCS any way they can.

5. Member Wilson explained the necessity for public comments because this committee is a board level committee. Committee members and the public have the opportunity to share for three minutes. Member Christenson suggested that students share this committee with their friends and other students so that more comments and opinions can be heard.

6. New members introduced. Sera Bales attends Canton High School. Dr. Vartanian-Gibbs introduced Jennifer Vos who will take minutes.

7. Committee Structure Discussion

Member Wilson discussed the two different phases of the committee creation. The committee is currently in the planning phase that will determine what the official committee will look like. Students are encouraged to put this experience on resumes and applications in the future. Second phase will be the official application process. The meeting will break out into two groups. Discussion should include: How many official members? What would committee leadership look like? What level of commitment is this committee needing from members?

Reporting from groups:

Group A.

- A. Chair and co-chair oversee all subcommittees.
- B. Subcommittees will be created. Members will get a choice of which subcommittees they would join.
- C. Visitor seats would be created to have students observe and make comments
- D. Subcommittees should be included on the official application to get an idea of student interest. Both standing and rotating committees would be created. Rotating committees would adapt to community needs.
- E. All voices need to be heard. How can we make all students feel comfortable sharing?
- F. There should be 20-25 members. Leadership consists of: chair, co-chair(s).
- G. Student leadership would sit on the board of education.
- H. Sub committees would be responsible for handling all of the work and would be overseen by committee chair and co-chair(s).

Group B:

- A. Create committee chair and co-chair. These would need to serve on the Board of Education.
- B. Chair and Co-chair would look over subcommittees.
- C. Leadership and committee members should receive training.
- D. Leadership should be elected.
- E. Member communication should be consistent.
- F. Application should include asking students which subcommittees they would be interested in serving on.
- G. Some committee suggestions would be: student education, extracurricular activities, race, safety.
- H. Leadership would be voted on within the committee.

Member Wilson asked for volunteers to work on coming up with committee structure. Ad hoc committee created to come up with descriptions. Committee challenged to come up with a student agenda for the entire district and which subcommittees should be formed. Alexander Hawkins, Josh Patterson, Emma Jordan, Judi Pawar, and Haidy Zhang will work with Member Christenson to get this ready for the next meeting.

## 8. Application Process for Student Membership

Dr. Vartanian-Gibbs introduced the application process. All ideas shared at the last meeting were put in a Google form. Break out groups to discuss Google form and add to it. Discuss the need for a video or voice recording as part of the application process.

Group A.

- A. Need to know which school they attend and their grade.
- B. Share application using Remind and 88.1.
- C. Question to add to the application: What do you want to see the committee to do?
- D. Add section with picture, video, voice memo shared by applicant. Tell something about themselves.
- E. Create an official email for the committee.

#### Group B

- A. New questions:
  - a. What can we do to address issues that are important in our district?
  - b. How available is the applicant? What other activities are they involved in.
- B. Give ideas of what will be discussed and what is expected.
- C. Create a website for the committee.
- D. Create a Q&A so applicants can have basic information readily available.
- E. Create QR code for the committee.

Member Wilson discussed the type of students that are wanted for committee. Diversity is key. The committee should include students who are engaged in many things and students that are engaged in nothing. How would we attract students that are under engaged? Are the questions in the application good at identifying what kind of student is applying?

Ideas for the application:

- Require short answer questions to see how students respond in writing.
- Ask them to rank interest in things 1-10
- Ask them to share what clubs and activities they are in.
- Ask them to share how their P-CCS experience is unique.
- What positive experiences have they had and what challenges do they face?
- What changes would they like to see?

Applicants will be interviewed. The interviewing committee will need to rotate students from the planning committee.

Some questions need to be answered:

- Does an adult need to be present for the application process?
- How long will students be able to serve as members of committee?
- Can we ask questions about race, gender, IEP or 504 status? Dr. Vartanian-Gibbs will ask a legal representative about this.

Information will need to be shared and approved by the Board of Education.

Application process timeline discussion:

- A. Complete application.
- B. Identify subcommittees
- C. Establishing meeting space/schedule
- D. Launch the application process
- E. Promote the application
- F. Interview applicants
- G. Make decision on members

Working committees to finalize details for application over the summer.

9. Liaison from outside of PCEP to be involved.

10. Future Scheduled Meeting Dates

- June 22, 2022 1pm at Board Office

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.