

Indigenous People's Day Celebration Committee

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Public Health Building, Small Conference Room

### Minutes

Committee members present: Vishni Samaraweera, Kea van der Ziel, Caitlin Starr

Committee member absent: Raquel Halsey

Public: Maya Norton, Meg Hitchcock-Smith (BHS), Larry Onie, Lizzie Buhl

Meeting called to order at 4:08 PM

1. Minutes of 4/2 approved.
2. Membership update – no new members to date. Interview pending for 5/14 for Larry Onie. Vishni introduced Meg Hitchcock-Smith who would like to take over on the committee.
3. Caitlin checked with IT Department regarding name change for 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October. They are unwilling to change this since it is still called Columbus Day in the State. Caitlin to continue her conversation with them. Possibility of raising with Select Board raised.
4. Update on School IPD guide and discussion with SAIR. SAIR's workshop has been postponed. SAIR did meet with Mr Tegnall and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teachers. Mr Tegnall helped to implement their 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, which teachers at Baker, Lincoln, Lawrence and Coolidge Corner School have been using. SAIR uses the primary sources and documents in the perspective of marginalized peoples and communities to create their curriculum. K-5 has a curriculum for IPD.
5. Vishni also reported on the Bridge to SAIR in which BHS students have been meeting with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders once a week at Pierce School, as a pilot to introduce these students to SAIR issues regarding social justice, and how to get involved in activism/finding your voice. About 30 students have shown up.
6. During the week of 5/23, SAIR students will meet with students at Baker in an assembly to discuss "Privilege, Intersectionality and Mental Health" over the course of 3 days.
7. Plans for IPD Celebration – discussion limited as Raquel was at State House in support of a bill to make Indigenous People's Day a state holiday in place of Columbus Day. Larry reported on a powwow that he attended at Harvard. He suggested contacting Chris Newell of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Ledyard, Connecticut, and exploring the possibility of having him involved in our IPD. Larry's baskets will be on display at the Main Library during the month of June. Maya suggested that she may have access to a contact at BU who put on an event for children where they could make food eaten by Native Americans.
8. New business, announcements –
  - a. Warrant article 28 regarding the state seal and motto – the Advisory committee wishes to amend it and leave out all the historical whereas clauses. Kea, the petitioner will put forward her warrant article with minor changes.

- b. Deborah Plummer, author of "All My Friends Are...", will be coming to the Main Library, sponsored by the MLK Committee and the Office of Diversity on 7/31.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM