

MLK Celebration Committee
Monday, May 13, 2019
Public Health Building – Library
5:30PM – 7:00PM

Minutes

Present: Rob Daves, Bobbie Knable, Ann Kamensky, Bill Mitchell, Caitlin Starr

Absent: Bernard Greene

Public: Jack Curtis, Kea van der Ziel, Nathan Taub

1. **4/1/19 minutes** reviewed and approved.

2. **Summer Event with Deborah Plummer, PhD.**

- Caitlin gave an update. Dr. Plummer has agreed to collaborate with the MLK Committee and Office of DICR to hold an event over the summer surrounding her book and work on “Some of My Friends Are...”.
- The event will be Wednesday July 31st from 6-8pm at Hunneman Hall. Light refreshments and free event.
- Dr. Plummer has asked that instead of payment we buy 20 or so copies and donate to the Library and to other community organizations that serve low income residents.
- Caitlin will contact Brookline Booksmith to be the book sellers for the evening.

3. **2020 Ideas**

- Potential Discussion/Panel with School Admin regarding curriculum
 - i. Collaborate with IPCC and school to learn about the curriculum and advocate for accurate portrayal of history in necessary places.
- SAIR
 - i. Nathan Taub, a Junior at BHS, and a member of Students Against Institutionalized Racism came and spoke to the Committee.
 - ii. Founded two years ago; SAIR is a student group and advised by Dr. Carr.
 - iii. During its first year SAIR wrote supplemental material for 8th grade US History curriculum, going section by section. There has been an effort to get the curriculum implemented and it has been made available to 8th grade history teachers.
 - iv. With Founders graduating, the group is in a bit of a transition period.
 - v. The group is in the process of writing a handbook on how to address race, discrimination, etc to be used (specifically in context of English and History); should be completed mid-year.
 - vi. At Pierce they have started Bridge to SAIR (7th and 8th grade students); helping younger students become more conformable having difficult conversations about race; Baker next year. Between 6-12 kids have come each time. Example topic: Achievement gap at BHS; MCAS scores lower for African American and Latinx students.
 - vii. Nathan answered committee’s questions.
 - viii. Nathan will see if can share their supplemental work with the committee.

4. **Other Business**

- Reviewed Recruitment flier – Caitlin will change all type to white and send to TAB.
- Jack has stepped down as a voting committee member.

5. **Next Meeting** – Decided not to meet in June. July meeting TBA.