

Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes –January 6, 2010

In attendance: Jennifer Greenhalgh, Sharon Tibbs, Nancy Daley, Linda Plumridge, Anne Renaud, Heather Campbell, Bill Perrault, Jim Cumming, Grace Silander, Diane Ross, Mike Adams (Alberton), David Sharp (NWCDSD), Hugh Dennis, Brian Major, Christina Hahkala, Mary Jane Allen, Al McManaman

1.0 Call to Order - Anne Renaud, chair

1.1 Welcome and introductions

2.0 Approval of November 2009 Minutes - Please note correction to the spelling of Jennifer Greenhalgh's name in the minutes.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

4.0 Mission Statement – reviewed by Anne Renaud

“Working together to create communities that celebrate diversity by actively practicing and promoting dignity, respect, and inclusiveness.”

5.0 Grant Proposal (Hugh Dennis, Grace Silander)

5.1 From Substance Abuse Prevention Team - history of SAPT provided.

- Approx. \$94,000 funded over the past 12 years for programming as well as salary position to support the initiatives.
- March 2010 – funding ends
- Community Policing Committee – a problem-solving committee composed of representatives from the fields of health, policing, education.
- Proposed Organization Chart shared (see attachment)
- Diversity Committee focuses on programming and resources to assist with issues re: diversity
- The hope is to have a culminating activity – a Summer Youth Experience Program at possibly Sunnycove for at-risk youth to celebrate what they've learned over the year. This would also tie into a Leadership component as well that is similar to the leadership activities experienced at Moose Lake (RRHS).
- Funding opportunity to incorporate SAPT, under the umbrella of Community Policing Committee, also supporting Diversity Committee, Drug Awareness Education initiatives, Youth Summer Experience Programs for Youth At Risk as well as for Young Leaders in our communities. The funding would also support the creation of Restorative Justice programming within the schools.
- Raj Sud, an OPP proposal writer, will be coming to Fort Frances to advise on the proposal writing on Jan. 18/10.
- Grace explained how the Safe Communities organization could support the proposal – the flow of funding

5.2 Review of Flow Chart

- Conflict resolution – not the Diversity Committee’s role – perhaps re-title Conflict Resolution to Respect and Inclusiveness
- Perhaps, place Celebrating Diversity in the middle of the diagram

5.3 Brainstorming of Ideas for Proposal:

- Speakers, materials (videos, books) – list of potential resources for website
- Dreaming Trails – development of empathy if we understand others’ backgrounds – Grace shared the resource and will make copies for those interested
- PARTY program – how to support across the district
- Challenge Day for district’s high schools
- Restorative Justice – training of volunteers, recognition of volunteers to support this program within schools
- Workshops for youth and community – RESPECT presentations by Con College, for example
- Training for businesses, especially those that do not have access to funding and yet must support employees with respect to accessibility, etc. – this would provide resources, release for employees, trainers
- Awareness – to help communities understand the signs of addiction, depression
- Support for youth to participate in sports/activities – there is an organization locally (Kidsport) that does this but organizations locally could donate dress down funds in support of this
- Support for Natural Helpers program at FFHS, with the possibility of support for other high schools to implement – training of students as peer helpers/resources within schools
- Talking About Mental Health – support for presentations across district
- Best Buddies program – support of this program

Other ideas and potential costs – please forward these to Heather asap.

6.0 Other: Review of Actions Items from November 2009’s Meeting Minutes (Anne)

6.1 Tasks

- The website can be an important tool for a) helping those new to the community to inform them of the services and resources available and b) to provide support for existing community members by providing links/resources to policy templates, accessibility documents/resources, etc.
- All members of the committee were asked to ensure that their websites linked to the Celebrating Diversity Committee website – www.celebratingdiversity.ca

- As well, what do we presently celebrate and what do we want to celebrate in respect to diversity within our organizations? This information is to be brought to the next meeting as well as forwarded to Linda Plumridge for inclusion on the website.

7.0 Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

8.0 Next meeting is on February 3 at 12 p.m. at Fort Frances High School.