



Stratford C.A.R.E Committee

Minutes May 4th, 2016

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“The Mission of Stratford C.A.R.E. is to make the Stratford, CT community strong, united, and vibrant by ensuring racial equity and promoting cultural competence.”

In attendance:

Yan Searcy, Donald Goodson, Yan Searcy, Olga Pena, Frank Parady, Tammy Langston, Sylvia Martin Stephanie Philips, Karen Edwards, Edward Rawls, Ken Simon, Ann Stockman, and Harold Greist and Clarence Zachery of the Stratford Public Schools.

Meeting called to order at 7:13PM

Check In:

The Chairman asked the members to tell everyone what their favorite restaurant was when they were a child.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve with correction to minutes that Karen Edwards voted to abstain instead of a no vote on the change to our by-laws – Tammy Langston. Seconded by Sylvia Martin. Minutes were passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasury Report/Olga Pena:

The balance remains the same at \$3,142.32. Motion to approve report – Tammy Langston. Seconded by Sylvia Martin. Report was approved unanimously.

Police/Community Relations/Chief Ridenhour:

Chief Ridenhour could not attend the meeting but sent an email update. He would like to thank Mr. Goodson and others who were planning to come out and support him at the scheduled Carter G. Woodson Awards Ceremony in Bridgeport that was cancelled at the last minute. He will let

us know when it is re-scheduled. The Chief attached the language that the members voted to approve at the last meeting for the change in our by-laws.

Education Committee Report/Donald Goodson & Olga Pena:

A discussion took place about Stratford's cut of \$975,098 from the State's Education Cost Sharing Grant. Clarence Zachary and Stephanie Philips stated the cut may end up being much less than to approximately \$100,000. We were all encouraged to notify our state legislators about or concern to these cuts. To put in perspective approximately 49% of Stratford's budget goes to the BOE.

John Fahan asked how many school employees make over \$100,000. Clarence Zachary was not sure but it is believed the number is probably over 20 individuals. Mr. Zachary stated he would get that information to Mr. Fahan. Mr. Zachary stated many teachers have tenure and several years of service who could very well be making six figures. He also expressed the fact that administrators like the superintendent have a specific skill set which justifies their salary.

The success rate of education coaches, bridging the achievement gap, diversity training, minority teacher recruitment and money spent per student were also discussed. Clarence Zachary stated that when Stratford historically spent more money per student the student academic outcomes were actually better.

Tammy Langston was concerned that from her experience teachers do not always immediately let parents know their children are falling behind or failing in class. Harold Griest stated there are certain standards in place that teachers need to abide by to communicate with parents such problems in a timely manner.

New Business:

Community Recognition Dinner/Yan Searcy, Karen Edwards, John Fahan:

Report has been tabled until the committee can formally meet again.

Public Relations & Communications/Ken Simon:

Ken Simon updated the committee on the increase in traffic and "likes" to our Facebook page. Going forward he suggests we set up content criteria.

Youth Advisory Board: Yan Searcy

The chairman stated he would like to set up a CARE Youth Advisory Board for 13-18 year olds. It was suggested he contact Tammy Trojanowski of Community Services to assist him with this endeavor.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahan

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