

Draft of the Minutes, EDIT Meeting of March 16, 2023, on Zoom

Present: Vice Chair, Jonathan Tropp, Vice Chair, Dan Wisneski, Kalim Jan, Rick Bolton, David Rosenberg, Tara Figueroa

Also Present: James Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney, William Chin, Town of Trumbull Technology Director

Mr. Tropp called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Tropp noted he was running the meeting in his capacity of Vice Chair, due to the resignation of Chairwoman Andrea Fonseca the day before, in light of her appointment to the Police Commission. Mr. Tropp spoke for the whole committee and thanked Ms. Fonseca for her dedication, enthusiasm and contributions to EDIT.

Mr. Wisneski made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 16, 2023, Mr. Rosenberg seconded. VOTE: Ms. Figueroa abstained, all others in favor.

Old Business: Mr. Tropp and Ms. Fonseca met with both the Trumbull Historical Society and the Coordinators of Adult Programming with the Trumbull Library System to discuss collaboration.

The Historical Society and EDIT have synergies in their interests. Mr. Tropp stated it's helpful to know Trumbull's history, and the Historical Society is interested in sharing our history to prepare for our future. It was discussed that we might coordinate to bring in speakers and do joint programs. Mr. Wisneski thought it's good to know where we've been before going somewhere new; Mr. Rosenberg agreed it's best not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Ms. Figueroa felt it was important to define who is telling that history, and to be sure to include the minority perspective, and to include members of those communities in the events. Mr. Tropp will work this month to make a more concrete plan, and invited others to join him if interested.

Mr. Tropp said the Adult Education Coordinators at the Library had a lot of enthusiasm to find ways to work with EDIT. They are always doing programs, and looking for things that are meaningful to the community. They agreed to do the homework; Mr. Tropp will reach back out.

Essay Contest: Students from all Trumbull schools are invited to participate in an essay contest, in response to the prompt sent to the schools, celebrating Diversity Month in April. Mr. Tropp spoke with Trumbull Community TV, and they will record the winners reading their essays, to be broadcast on Trumbull Community TV. If the Town Council has the winners read their essays, then Trumbull TV will record it from that setting. Otherwise, they will record it in another setting. After discussion it was decided that the prompt is: "what does a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Trumbull mean to you?" Winners will be chosen from K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and high school.

Participants are invited to write an essay or word collage of up to 500 words. Mr. Tropp will send the invitation with the prompt and the EDIT mission statement to all the school principals, as well as the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. Promise of a prize will not be in the invitation, though it may be decided upon later. Mr. Bolton motioned to launch the Essay Contest, Ms. Figueroa seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

Question of the Week for the Trumbull Times: Mr. Wisneski contacted the Trumbull Times. They have a new Editor in Chief, Brian Gioiele, who replaced Amanda Cuda. They were not interested in having a question of the week, but will be attending the EDIT meetings, and reporting on them. They are happy to have EDIT contribute articles about things they are doing (such as the Essay Contest) and stories about people in the community that are helping EDIT with their mission. They want stories that “benefit the community”. Kalim Jan made a motion to submit a story about the EDIT essay contest to the Trumbull Times, Mr. Bolton seconded. VOTE: All in favor. A standing agenda item will be added each month to discuss items to bring to the Trumbull Times.

Research on Diversity Training: Mr. Bolton said his students were not finding much that is being done in any local towns for Diversity Training. Mr. Bolton did spend some time with librarians looking up what any towns in Connecticut are doing, and found very little. He will do some more research, but it was decided that by next month, EDIT should make their own recommendations.

Letter to the Calendar Committee: Mr. Tropp said after the February meeting the letter had been put on Letterhead, signed by Ms. Fonseca on behalf of the committee and sent to Dr. Iwanicki, Dr. Semmel and Ms. Timpanelli. None of the recipients circulated it any further. Mr. Jan read portions of the letter at the last Board of Ed meeting, and received an email within two minutes that the Board had not received it prior to his reading. Mr. Jan made a motion to forward the letter to the entire Board of Ed, Mr. Bolton seconded. VOTE: All in favor. Mr. Tropp will do so.

New Business: Mr. Tropp said the Town Council is aware of the need to replace Ms. Fonseca, as well as the other open seats on the committee. He expects it will be addressed and perhaps resolved at their April meeting.

Other: Ms. Figueroa inquired if there was an update on the Value Statement for the Town. No, this will be added to the April agenda.

Mr. Wisneski asked about the annual report Mr. Tropp circulated prior to the meeting. It will be added to the April agenda.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. VOTE: All in favor at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
March 26, 2023