

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET)
October 9, 2013 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of Mesa met on October 9th, 2013,
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Lotz, Chair
Denise Heap
Talmage Pearce

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Lotz called the meeting to order at 5:12pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Discuss, consider and take action on activities outlined in 2013/14 Board's strategic plan:

- Identify ways to reach out to youth and educate them on diversity related issues.

Ms. Lotz suggested working with the Mesa Police Department to expand the 'Make Every Student Accountable' program already in place. Ms. Lotz stated there may be availability to work with Title 1 schools given their status and goals. Ms. Heap recommended putting a program in place, such as one by the Severson Sisters (although it would be applicable for both males and females), and presenting it to school PTO's.

Ms. Giese advised that the Diversity Office recently partnered with Dobson High School to show an early viewing of a diversity related movie from the Cinema Series with a post dialogue discussion. Ms. Giese suggested that more films could be shown in other schools, or even continues a partnership with Dobson High School, seeing that it had a positive response. Ms. Giese also noted that the board is already a sponsor of the Cinema Series so it would be beneficial to utilize a program we already have. Ms. Lotz questioned if any of the films were controversial and if the participating students had the option to opt out. In response, Ms. Giese stated that the films can be controversial, but the board could select which of the films they would like to show, and the students did have the option to opt out. Ms. Giese recommended that they facilitate another showing at Dobson High School, given that it was successful the first time, in order to assess the response and formulate a plan to implement at other schools.

Mr. Pearce asked if they would be able to use past films from the series or others outside the selection such as a documentary on bullying prevention. Ms. Giese replied that there are restrictions as to when the films from the series can be screened so the selection would need to be planned in advanced. It would be the board discretion if they would like to include other films pertaining to specific topics. Considerations would also need to be made for a facilitator to provoke the discussion after the viewing. A topic expert is typically selected for the Cinema Series events, but the board could also consider having students answer questions while watching the film.

The team agreed to initiate a pilot program at Dobson High School in the spring before expanding to other schools. As the program develops, a presentation to the school board and superintendent may

need to be considered for mass approval. Staff advised that they will follow up with existing contacts at Dobson High School, and will provide more information at the next YDET meeting.

- Review the topic of creating an HRAB seat for a youth member.

Ms. Giese reiterated the board's intentions to include more of a youth perspective on topic items. Staff provided a mock up student application based on a similar quest in another city. The application would be in addition to the standard form required by all advisory members to fill out, but would provide more insight on the candidate's interest to join. Ms. Giese stated that the Library Advisory Board also utilizes a student member who commits only to a year term as opposed to the full three years. The team agreed to the benefits of youth member and the additional application process. Mr. Pearce made the motion to accept the Student Board Member Application for a youth member seat on HRAB. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. Ms. Lotz made a correction to remove, "and a member of a diverse community" from the qualifications list. The motion carried with the correction.

- Review the work previously done on bullying and determine course of action.

Ms. Heap provided an overview of the board's previous work on bullying, a community conversation event held in April 2012 titled "Bullying in America". Ms. Heap explained there were a panel discussion from experts, policy discussion from officials and table discussions from attending participants. Ms. Heap stated that the event was attended by many concerned teachers.

Mr. Pearce suggested doing a series of events that tailor the topic to the recipient such as for bully victims, parents dealing with bullying, or for teachers. Ms. Heap commented that the Severson Sisters have effective programs for girls where they help build the self-confidence of victims, or teach bullies how to correct their actions. Ms. Heap suggested finding an organization that does similar work for the segments they would like to target.

Ms. Lotz stated that they should even start by defining bullying as there are many different kinds. The team agreed to do individual research to discuss at the next meeting. The team also agreed that the remainder of the year will be dedicated to research and planning for a possible event in the future, but the topic of bullying could be tied in other ways such as the film series previously discussed.

4. Discuss and consider identifying organizations as partners of the Youth Diversity Education Team.

The team identified several potential partnering agencies during their agenda item discussions.

5. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next YDET meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th, 2013 at 5pm.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator