

Glenview Values Project Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Glenview Public Library

Welcome

Gayle Curcio opened the meeting at 7:40 a.m. with introductions. She explained that Pastor Kyle's absence was due to his surgery for his broken arm. He is home from the hospital and recuperating.

May Minutes

Distributed electronically in May.

Announcements

June 30th is Glenview Summerfest followed by Pantry Palooza that evening.

The 4th of July Commission is still raising funds for this year's celebration (flyer attached).

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Day; people are encouraged to wear purple in recognition of that.

Reps. Fine and Gabel are holding a town hall at 7 p.m. on June 18th at the Evanston Ecology Center. Helping Hands of Glenview needs volunteer drivers.

Eyes on the Street

No reports.

Program

Josh Koo, Glenbrook South Assistant Principal of Student Activities, spoke about (Students Organized Against Racism (S.O.A.R.), a new club at the school. It started informally during the 2016-17 school year when five seniors decided they could no longer remain silent in the face of the overt and quieter racism they were seeing. There are chapters of S.O.A.R. at Niles West and Evanston but each one operates independently.

While we are all proud of the great things at GBS, we must recognize that we have a diverse school (racially and socioeconomically) and there are challenges that accompany that. There has been a very strong influx of Mongolian students and the school is working to accommodate those families. Teachers are facing new classroom situations as racism surfaces there.

Although 90% of students are involved in extracurriculars, it is important to reach the remaining 10%. Some of those students have confided that racial issues are part of what keeps them from engaging. It can help them to know they're not alone; affirmation from other students makes them more comfortable. Open discussions about how race impacts GBS and broader society are valuable. They help students become active citizens.

Last year members of S.O.A.R. coordinated a student project and discussion and met with school administrators. That led to an all-day conference addressing racism. They brought in speakers, did role playing with help from professionals, and looked for ways to reduce tension around discussions of race. They look to support people in becoming upstanders instead of bystanders. This laid a foundation for how students can act in supportive ways through training and encouraging a positive and productive mindset.

By being proactive the administration hopes to train students so that there will be fewer students who feel disengaged. By addressing uncomfortable situations, they can create a climate where more students feel a sense of community and belonging. Students in S.O.A.R. understand that silence in the face of racism is the same as approval.

Teachers and students are reluctant to call out racism so the school is working on helping them gain the tools to address it immediately and effectively. There are ongoing discussions among the staff about how to deal with situations. Getting parents to recognize that their children are committing these offenses can be difficult; some parents argue that their children should be able to speak freely even if what they're saying is offensive.

There was discussion of how racial issues are addressed at other schools and how there has been an increase in inconsiderate and short-sighted actions and speech. These are difficult situations for teachers and administrators.

S.O.A.R. is just one of the GBS clubs concerned with social justice. Others deal with feminist issues and LGBTQ issues. There are now efforts to encourage collaboration in some areas. They share goals of commonality and respect. The students who are involved in this are working to find ways to engage with people who are behaving poorly rather than simply dismissing them. A student-led push is far more likely to succeed than something imposed on the students.

Character Counts

No report.

Social Service Subcommittee

Next meeting will be June 19th at 9:00 a.m. at Youth Services. We are trying to have a representative of Connections for the Homeless attend. All are welcome. There will be no meeting in July but we will meet again in August.

Respecting Differences Working Team

Pastor Kyle and Gayle will continue working on this over the summer.

Upcoming Meetings will be held at the Glenview Village Hall

No meetings in July or August

September

Program ideas are always welcome. Please contact Gayle Curcio (gaylec@twp.northfield.il.us) or Kyle Severson (pastorkyle@stphilipglenview.org).

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brickman