

Chippewa Valley Schools African American Parent Network Meeting

March 18, 2021

Vision Statement: Our vision is to engage African American students in the learning process and to motivate them to become lifelong learners by providing opportunities to develop their academic, physical, social, and emotional growth that will enable and prepare them to become productive, responsible citizens.

Mission Statement: The mission of the African American Parent Network is to collaborate with teachers, staff and administration in Chippewa Valley Schools to create a safe and inclusive learning environment where African American students are valued and respected. We will work together to address implicit bias, eliminate racial inequalities, and promote diversity in the curriculum. We will educate, energize, and empower our community to meet the needs of all CVS students.

Committee Chairs Present: La'Trise Smith, E. Smith

Committee Members Present: K. Elms, S. Ward, S. Mannan

Committee Chairs/Members Absent: A. Taylor, L. Smith, M. Battles, T. Addison, T. Snead, L. Battles, D. Belcher, S. Shackelford, J. Bailey, J. Belcher

Administration Present: Nicole Faehner

Guests: 18+ participants

A. Call to Order at 7:03 P.M.

1. Welcome – La'Trise Smith
2. Review of Agenda – La'Trise Smith

B. It's Our Anniversary

- We accomplished several goals over the last year despite COVID-19 and all the challenges we faced.
- Nicole Faehner and Harry Weaver have done a lot to support our group and we are thankful for their support. Please reach out to Harry (Diversity & Inclusion Officer) if you have any concerns as a parent in this district.
- La'Trise has a video that will be posted on our Facebook page for our anniversary – please check it out.

C. Committee Members

- You can reach out to any committee member via our website or Facebook page if you have any questions/comments or concerns.
- Kim Elms discussed Skill Building Thursdays and the upcoming poetry sessions.
 - Future sessions planned - April 9th will focus on work ethics and professionalism and the April 22nd session will include a career exploration panel and resume workshop.
 - If you are interested in joining the career explorations panel contact La'Trise at hsmithla@yahoo.com
 - Poet & Artist of the Month – first session in March with another session in April

D. CVS Interns

A diverse group of six interns have been assisting AAPN. They have helped with various activities, including Skill Building Thursdays and our social media page. They are our voice to the student population and we really appreciate their help and support.

E. Nicole Faehner, Director of State and Federal Programs and Outreach

- Nicole congratulated the group on our 1-year anniversary. Every 5 years an accreditation review is performed in the district. The CVS review will take place the week of 3/21/2021. Over 200 individuals will be involved, including administrators, students, teachers and parents. Nicole thanked everyone that will be participating in the focus group interviews.
- After school free tutoring is available to all students. Check your building website for individual/group tutoring.
- Nicole expressed her support for Skill Building Thursdays. She participated in the most recent session and encouraged parents to participate with their students.

F. AAPN work in the District

- Meetings at large since March 2020
- AAPN Facebook & website developed
- School ambassadors – Edrena has done a great job and we have lots of parent engagement
- Skill Building Thursdays – Kim has done a good job taking the lead and participation is increasing
- 2 Town Halls – information sharing; these allow us to discuss topics that are of concern to our members and discuss solutions with CVS administration
- Message from our students
- HBCU college panel discussion – we plan to do another panel in the next school year
- AAPN Student Newsletter – sent via Schoology by our interns
- Special Needs Resource Guide
- CVS Tutor List
- Student Spotlight
- AAPN Fundraiser – another fundraiser is being planned for the next school year
- Intern Support

La'Trise discussed how AAPN was started. She had some concerns and other parents shared the same concerns. That foundation is what the group was built on.

G. Next meeting – Thursday April 18, 2021

H. What can you do?

- Attend board meetings - get to know your board members and their roles
- Reach out to Harry Weaver and school administration to share concerns
- Connect with your child
- Donate to help support initiatives and follow us on Facebook

I. Adjournment

- The meeting ended with closing remarks from La'Trise Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Shameeka Ward