

Chippewa Valley Schools African American Parent Network Meeting

September 16, 2021

Vision Statement: To build an inclusive and diverse environment where all students are encouraged, developed and prepared to compete globally; both socially and academically.

Mission Statement: To drive processes, programs and curriculum within the district that are aligned and inclusive of all students and will educate, empower and energize our community.

Committee Chairs Present: L. Smith, S. Shackelford, E. Smith

Committee Members Present: J. Belcher, J. Bailey

Committee Chairs/Members Absent:

Administration Present: H. Weaver, N. Faehner

Guests: 23 participants

A. Call to Order at 7:05 P.M.

1. Welcome and Overview of AAPN – La'Trise shared a brief history of the founding of AAPN in March of 2019
2. Review of Agenda – La'Trise reviewed the agenda

B. Administrator's Reports

1. Report from the Diversity and Inclusion Officer – Mr. Harry Weaver

Mr. Weaver shared his background and experience with diversity and equity work. He assists with cultural competency in CVS (e.g., teacher training, curriculum work, etc.) and access for Black students. Last year, he facilitated two virtual Town Hall meetings.

2. Report from the Director of State & Federal Programs and Outreach – Ms. Nicole Faehner

Ms. Faehner introduced herself to those present. She is a former CVS student as well as assistant principal. She reiterated the challenges faced during the pandemic and as well as those facing us as we return to in-person learning.

C. Committee Reports

1. Committee Positions – La'Trise reviewed the job descriptions for open positions and committee members present introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their roles and responsibilities

- Chair – Mrs. La'Trise Smith
- Administrative Co-Chair – Mr. Shawn Shackelford
- School Ambassador Chair – Ms. Edrena Smith
- Social Media/Website Chair – Ms. Sarah Mannan
- Educational Programming Co-Chairs – Mr. Darien Belcher Sr. and Mrs. Johnessa Belcher
- Alumni Chair – Mrs. Jade Bailey

- Special Education Co-Chairs – Ms. Lisa Battles and Ms. Kimberly Elms
- Secretary – Ms. Shameeka Ward
- Website & Marketing Chair – TBD
- Events Committee Chair – TBD
- Treasurer – TBD
- Fundraising Chair – TBD
- School Ambassadors

*Descriptions of open positions are available on the [website](#) as well as the AAPN FB group.

2. AAPN Interns – La'Trise recognized our interns who went above & beyond in 2020-2021

- Olivia Hadley – Social Media Intern; in charge of Facebook and Remind App
- Selena P. – she was instrumental in putting together a 'Thoughts to Poetry' Night which was very well attended

3. School Ambassador Program – the description was reviewed by Ms. Edrena Smith The goal is to have 1 representative per grade level at each CVS school.

D. Discussion Items – NONE

E. What's New

1. Johnessa is taking orders for AAPN polo shirts. They are \$25 each.
2. Edrena has \$20 T-shirts for the AAPN School Ambassadors to purchase.

F. What's Next

1. The next Town Hall Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 18th. You can submit your questions on the AAPN page of the CVS website using the following link:
<https://www.chippewavalleyschools.org/for-parents/aapn-african-american-parent-network/>

G. Audience Participation – Participants asked questions as needed during the meeting.

1. *What is the percentage of African American students in CVS?*
Ms. Faehner responded that African American students make up approximately 11-12% of the student population. This translates to 1,200 to 1,400 African American students district wide.
2. *What are the goals of the AAPN?*
Mr. Weaver's response included the various initiatives such as March is Reading Month, the 3rd grade reading law, tutoring, NHS involvement at Dakota (Olivia), and Dr. Anthony Muhammad's 'Closing the Achievement Gap' which is providing resources through the district.
3. *What is the participation?*
La'Trise shared that attendance was high during some of our virtual meetings during the past year. Our initial meeting in March of 2019 was our only in-person meeting prior to today. However, the focus is on awareness.
4. *Is there literature (e.g., pamphlets, etc.) available to pass out to parents?*
La'Trise had business cards printed. Yard signs were ordered last year to advertise the AAPN and encourage support.

5. *Can we introduce our students to Black authors?*

Absolutely, especially during March is Reading Month! Johnessa shared that her eldest son Darien, a CVS middle school student, is a published author. He has attended events to speak to students and their parents, answer their questions, and to read his books to them.

6. *Are there social events to help connect the kids at all grade levels in the district?*

There were plans for an ice cream social, but then the pandemic hit. This would be handled by the Events Committee Chair.

H. Adjournment

1. The meeting ended with closing remarks from Mrs. L. Smith. She reminded parents to email the committee with any suggestions or concerns. She also encouraged those present to continue to show their support for the AAPN by attending monthly meetings, CVS Board meetings (which take place every other Monday), and support fundraising efforts or via donations.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Jade Bailey (on behalf of AAPN Secretary Shameeka Ward)