

Chippewa Valley Schools African American Parent Network Meeting

November 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

Committee Members Present: S. Ward, L. Battles, J. Bailey, E. Smith

Committee Chairs/Members Absent: A. Taylor, L. Smith, T. Addison, K. Elms, D. Belcher, S. Shackelford, S. Mannan, J. Belcher

Administration Present: Harry Weaver and Nicole Faehner

Guests: 17 participants (11 in person, 6 online)

A. Call to Order at 7:04 P.M.

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

B. Committee Positions

- Education Chair – Johnessa Belcher
- Alumni Chair – Jade Bailey
- Special Needs Chair – Kim Elms (Kim also assists with Learning & Development)
- Fundraising Chair – Open position
- Website and Marketing Chair – Open position
- Events Committee Chair – Tammera Addison
- Treasurer – Lisa Battles
- School Ambassador Chair – Edrena Smith

Please let La'Trise know if you are interested in a committee position. We would like to get the positions filled so we can be recognized as a legitimate/approved group in the district.

- Lisa Battles is co-chair of the school ambassadors and has been assisting Edrena. She is currently working with the principals to get more black representation on the bulletin boards for Black History Month. She is also working to get black art and books by black authors in the schools.

- So far, the principals have been on board with changing the bulletin boards to include African American representation.
- Harry and Shawn have been instrumental in helping the ambassadors to work with the principals.

We would like to have more than one ambassador at each school so if you are interested in becoming an ambassador please reach out to Edrena.

C. Upcoming School Board Meetings on 12/6 and 12/20

D. Upcoming events:

- On 12/17/2021 AAPN meet up at the skating rink
- January 20, 2022 – Vision Board workshop
- February – We would like to attend an event at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History for Black History Month.
- Career Tech Education would like to partner with the schools to ensure students are aware of the programs that are available
- We discussed how to get parents more involved and how to get our children involved in AAPN activities.

E. Town Hall - Harry Weaver, Diversity, Equity, School Culture

There were 51 responses to the survey

Survey Themes:

1. How information is communicated:

- Black parents in the district don't feel like they have adequate resources. We are trying to create a resource hub so parents are aware of all offerings in the district. Currently, everything is posted on the AAPN facebook page. We need a marketing chair to assist with getting information out to AAPN parents. It would be nice to have a resource list to share with parents, so they know what is available. It would be nice to redistribute the Resource Handbook that was created by Lisa and Edrena.
- Nicole mentioned the district has school social workers that are available to assist families in need with school supplies, backpacks, etc.
- After school tutoring will be launching soon.

2. Lack of representation for Black History Month:

- Administration wasn't aware and parents had not communicated the desire to have something for Black History Month. Once it was brought the principals attention, they were open to ideas.
- Lack of representation amongst staff in the schools. This is a challenge now and hopefully will improve with attrition.

F. Nicole invited everyone to complete the survey sent by the district to gauge interest from parents on how to spend COVID funds.

G. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Shameeka Ward