

Berkshire Branch NAACP

Education Committee, October 8, 2019

DRAFT Minutes

Present: Barbara Roberts, Cheryl Rose, Christina Daignault, Hugh Guilderson, Will Singleton

Guest: Dennis Powell

**Manner of recording minutes and decisions:** Minutes will include key points of discussions and decisions. Regular monthly meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6PM, Tyler Street Labs. The next meeting will be Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Award of Scholarships:** Applications for Branch scholarships will be available to all African American high school seniors in Berkshire County who plan to continue their education after high school. The Committee will establish criteria for evaluating the applications and provide mentoring sessions for students applying to higher ed institutions. The Committee also will provide information about how to access Scholly (see <https://myscholly.com/>), a website for scholarship searches.

**Pittsfield Public Schools:**

- a. Implementation of Calmer Choice: Will and Hugh will meet with Supt. McCandless to discuss the creation of a pilot program in the Conte, Morningside, Reid, and Crosby Elementary schools.

Please see this link for suggested steps to follow to implement a mindful schools program: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/implementing-school-wide-mindfulness-program-patrick-cook-deegan>

- b. Implementation of Mass. DOE Social/Emotional Learning and History and Social Sciences frameworks: Will is going to arrange a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss their implementation of the frameworks.
- c. Attending school committee meetings: The Education Committee will prepare audio-visual presentations of the Calmer Choice program and the S/EL and HSS frameworks for the Pittsfield School Committee.

**North Adams Schools:** Hugh will schedule a meeting with Mayor Bernard and the Superintendent to be held after Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss their response to being cited by Mass. DOE for high suspension rates. We will also discuss their potential implementation of the SPIRIT program and the District's implementation of the Mass. DOE S/EL and HSS frameworks.

**Hoosac Valley School District (Adams/Cheshire Schools):** Christina reported on numerous incidents of bias and bullying. Responses by teachers and administrators have not been helpful.

Christina has met with the dean at Hoosac Valley HS and will arrange another meeting to try to build a relationship with the principal.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh L Guilderson, Co-Chair