



**Diversity Council- Special Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
**Zoom Meeting – 7:00PM**

**Attendees:**

Jaymie Bianca - Chair, Council Members David MacGregor Rackliffe, Kelly Pacheco Houston, Derek Jones

**Absent:** Council Members Desira Nichole Powell, Marcus Patton, Alison Rae Willette, Jeffrey Israel, Mohammad Aziz and Sebastian Panioto - City Council Member

**Guests:** Youth Coalition Members Liv Chapdelaine, Pushpita Hossain, Hailey Rosado, and Samin Aziz

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
2. Public Participation:

There was no Public Participation.

3. Current Business:
  - a. Introduction of Diversity Council Members

Jaymie Bianca introduced herself as the Chair of the Diversity Council and expressed her excitement to work with the Youth Coalition Members.

Kelly Houston and Derek Jones introduced themselves and welcomed the Youth Coalition members. Derek works as a manager at Bank of America and does volunteer work and serves on local boards including the Men and Boys Foundation. He's also a member of the Bristol NAACP.

Kelly followed up with the DK Movement clothing brand they run together. Its purpose is to fund charity efforts in the community like Agape House and the Bristol Boys & Girls Club. The goal is to lift others up.

Dave Rackliffe introduced himself as Bristol Health retiree whose career was in IT. He is a Rotarian, on the Board of Prudence Crandall, and the Men and Boys



Club. Dave is looking forward to hearing from the Youth Coalition and their efforts and ideas.

Jaymie further stressed that all the Council Members are very invested in their community. She stressed that they are great contacts for the Coalition members and knows the Council members are willing to help in any way they can.

b. Introduction of Youth Coalition Members

Hailey Rosado is a Junior at Bristol Central High School.

Liv Chapdelaine is a Senior at Bristol Eastern High School and is familiar with many of the Council members. She is the current Ms. Chrysanthemum Teen and recently started a nonprofit called Speak Now which is designed to encourage more youth to get involved in their communities and use their voice to speak their truth.

Pushpita Hossain (Pita) is a Senior at Bristol Eastern High School where she is currently the President of their Diversity Club. The club's main goals are to create events that are inclusive to the student body and to make donations.

Samin Aziz is also a Senior at Bristol Eastern High School and has been a part of the Diversity Club at school since it began.

Jaymie thanked them for their work in their community and for the Diversity Council to be involved.

c. Youth Coalition Expectations

Jaymie shared the Council's drafted Youth Coalition Expectations and reviewed them in detail asking for Coalition member feedback on them. David asked what the response to their efforts at the schools has been. Liv offered praise to Pita and Samin for a hijab awareness presentation they gave. They do get a lot of push back on being different and it was amazing and moving.

Pita feels Eastern is very willing and supportive. The current Iran and hijab crisis was discussed in an assembly format. Their Diversity Club puts the effort in to make their school year worth it and feels the schools are enthusiastic.



Derek praised the Coalition for putting themselves out there in a positive way and also asked about boys being involved at all. He would like to see more young men involved. Kelly asked about feedback at Bristol Central. Hailey feels that young people don't know how easy it is to get involved and make a difference and while it's not at the level of Bristol Eastern yet, it is getting there. Jaymie confirmed that Hailey is the only currently active Coalition member at Bristol Central with one other teen ramping up after an injury. Derek suggested shifting the momentum from Eastern to Central using their energy to advocate for Hailey's efforts. Dave voiced support for that and more administrative involvement which he believes would be well received.

Regarding the Youth Coalition Expectations, Jaymie confirmed item #1. means a meeting amongst themselves to network and support each other. Kelly thinks an additional meeting, maybe quarterly, with the Diversity Council would be good. Derek would like to see boys involved to interject some positivity for them. Liv suggested a Youth Coalition member attend a monthly Diversity Council meeting to provide updates.

Derek made the motion to accept the Youth Coalition Expectations as they currently stand and Dave seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into record.

#### Youth Coalition Expectations

1. Members will commit to one meeting a month either via zoom or in person.
2. Members will participate in quarterly meetings with Diversity Council members
3. Members are not to miss more than 3 Youth Coalition meetings in a calendar year (the same rules apply for Diversity Council members).
4. Members will each think of and execute a program for their individual school with help from the coalition and diversity council members.
5. Members will collaborate on one city wide project.
6. Members will conduct themselves with respect and maturity during meetings and public events.
7. One member will each attend a monthly Diversity Council meeting to give an update.



- d. Culture Day - Bristol Eastern  
Next Culture Day is Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

Pita was the Culture Day host in 2022 with a main goal to create an inclusive day with cultural food offerings, flags, dancing and informational visual panels. For 2023 some plans are still being confirmed with an end of the day event with booths, dancing, food and encouraging cultural clothing to be worn at school. Pita encouraged Hailey with her event and said that keeping it small in 2022 helped her with feedback and how to plan for 2023. Pita is also working with Youth Services to have a Culture Day for the community with an attendance fee to raise funds and they hope to have food vendors as well. She is reporting back to them after this meeting. Jaymie advised that the Council just applied for funding but they can help with contacts and other support as needed.

- e. Culture Day - Bristol Central  
Next Culture Day is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Hailey is still sorting ideas and planning with all the language teachers and about 10 students who are on board to assist. She has a Google doc shared with ideas that include a whole day without disrupting learning. Ideas include students wearing traditional clothing to school, a passport theme/scavenger hunt with various stamps to be collected while learning various cultural information. A flag parade and a showcase after school with cultural arts and dance highlighted were among the suggested events. Mastery Credits might be possible for students that are involved in the planning. Dave would like to see more support for Hailey. Kelly and Derek offered support including maybe a DK Movement jacket and likes the dress down fundraiser idea. He and David encouraged Hailey to trim the activities list down to five or six. The Google doc will be shared with them to provide feedback and help with organization.

- f. Future plans - Youth Coalition  
Liv expanded on her nonprofit which she started as a social impact initiative for her competitions. It came from realizing that many youths don't know how easy it is to get involved in their community or they need encouragement and information on how to register to vote. Derek suggested presenting an informational format showing much they can impact outcomes. Liv believes bringing people together without political designations allows for conversation that builds more common ground.



Dave encouraged the Coalition members to attend Tuesday's meeting with the Panel Discussion that will follow. Derek expressed encouragement in the Youth Coalition Members and their leadership skills now and what he sees they'll be in the future.

g. Diversity Council Plans/Initiatives

Jaymie invited the Coalition members to the Diversity Council's February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Bristol Public Library and on Zoom and the Panel Discussion that will follow. Derek spoke with Matt at Agape House for the Council to cook up breakfast. Voting for a day to go will be done at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dave thanks the Coalition members for sharing what they're doing and hopes to give Central help. Jaymie thanked everyone for attending and more meetings with the Coalition members will be scheduled especially with the Culture Days coming up.

4. Adjournment:

- Jaymie requested a motion to adjourn. Derek Jones made the motion which was seconded by Kelly Pacheco Houston and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectively submitted,  
Sharon Arsego  
Recording Secretary