

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACK MALES

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2017  
5:30pm

Hooker Conference Room #245 City Hall  
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN

AGENDA

Members Present: Cornelius Wright, Brian Richardson Jr., David Hummons, Byron Turner, James Sanders, John McCluskey Jr., Seth Debro

Guests: Sue Wanzer- Monroe County Community Board of School Trustees Member; Jaime Bue, Indiana University

Staff: Rafi Khalid Hasan II, City of Bloomington,

Cornelius Wright called the meeting at 5:35pm.

**Introductions**

**1. Request for Additional Agenda Items**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

April 12, 2017

Minutes approved at 5:44pm

**3. New Business**

B. MCCSC policy on reduced lunches (Sue Wanzer and Cathy Fuentes-Rowher.)

*Background Information:* Children in the MCCSC school system are experiencing “lunch-shaming” where they are turned away from hot lunches because there is not enough credit in their account. Students who are receiving reduced lunch and their parents have a bill, are notified after they have gone through the lunch line that their account is overdrawn. The students’ hot lunches are discarded in the trash and they are directed to get a cold lunch that consists of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and cold milk.

The lunch system might not be set up in a way that is productive for students as they can continue to spend money and credit their accounts. Accounts can be charged up to the value of three lunches in debt before a student is prohibited from taking a hot meal. The students getting hit the hardest with lunch-shaming are those from working-poor families who are just above the line to qualify for free and reduced lunch programs which are under the purview of the Department of Agriculture. The lunch debt is currently at \$6,000.

Request for the Commission to write to the School Board to advocate for children, as well as for Commissioners to provide testimony at the School Board meeting on Tuesday at 6pm at the Administration Center near South high school. The policy will show on the meeting notes for Tuesday.

Motion by Seth Debro to compose a letter to the MCCSC School Board. Motion passed at 6:10pm.

C. Post-event evaluation (discussion): Black Barbershop Talk

Moving forward, need to account for privacy and extending or changing the hours to draw more people. The event was well advertised and healthcare providers were impressed with the turnout. 18 were tested between 9am-12pm and another 30 people came throughout the day for conversations including mental health and spinal checks. Talks about mental health would be worth revisiting again.

There will be a recap conference call on the 22<sup>nd</sup> where representatives from 15 cities will share what worked.

D. Selection of officers according to CSBM Bylaws

According to Bylaws, May is the month that the commission appoints officers. The commission needs to appoint a Vice-Chair and Secretary. Next month the Commission will vote for officers.

E. Request to Common Council for two affiliates to CSBM

Request for Caleb and Dexter to be appointed as commission affiliates.

**4. Liaison report**

A. New appointments

1. Welcome Byron Turner II, Mayoral appointee to the CSBM

#### B. City of Bloomington: Administrative

1. 2016 CSBM report is being finalized.
2. CSBM name badges have been ordered.
3. Law on commission meetings- if 3 or more commissioners are together discussing business related to the commission, then by city ordinance it is considered a meeting and must be publicly advertised.
4. Review of CSBM bylaws

#### C. Community Partnerships

1. Paul Kriese, retired professor IU-East Interviewing Black Males in Indiana and requests to forward his contact information.

2. Story Corps Oral History project: May 21- June 25

Sign-ups are happening right now. Discussions must take place in groups of 2 or 3 people.

3. United Way- Dollars and Sense Program May 22<sup>nd</sup>

4. Letter request to MCCSC admin for a roster of black male seniors to publish and applaud their graduation in the June Newsletter.

5. Herald Times and bias reporting. The commission needs to read the paper and identify positive versus negative words and how they are being described compared to their white counterparts.

#### 5. **Old Business**

A. Campaign on Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Awareness

Each month be sure to have actions that demonstrate Colorectal Awareness is a priority for CSBM.

B. CSBM program planning for city and county bicentennial celebration

C. NAACP Meeting Report

There's a major appointment available on the Board of Public Safety that includes a skype-in. That can be found on Bloomington.gov and will include oversight of the hiring and firing of police officers and firefighters.

Expulsion rates are high, especially for students of color.

#### C. **Action committee reports**

##### 1. Education

- a. MCCSC policy on reduced lunches
- b. Program during Jackson Creek Middle School Tutorial
- c. Diversity Advisory Team

##### 2. Health and Wellness

- a. Colorectal Cancer Campaign

- 3. Employment and Entrepreneurship

- a. Dollars and Sense Program

- 4. Criminal Justice

**6. Adjournments**

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

**7. Announcements**