



CCACE Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2020

Present: Demi Ayres, John Ballantine, Paula Casey, Claudia Feeney, Marla Iyasere, Eva Mostoufi, Carol Murphree, Margo Parent, Jill Weintraub

Approved 11/13/20 by Paula Casey; Seconded by Claudia Feeney

1. October minutes approved by Demi Ayres; seconded by Marla Iyasere
2. Budget update:
 - There are a lot of transitions in the business department that reflect the numbers. We are doing okay.
 - John inquired about how students and parents are being informed during these COVID times. Jill stated that the Parent groups at each level are doing a great job keeping everyone up to date, and Laurie Hunter is keeping the community well briefed about COVID related information in the school system.
3. Registration:
 - Adult Ed: October registrations are ahead of last year, mostly due to Arm Chair Travel, whose attendees are required to register because the program is on zoom. As a result, we are able to gather more personal information and receive feedback, which has been fantastic. Claudia gave a shout-out to Stefanie who is doing a great job. Stefanie has been a tech guru, holding many practice zoom sessions for instructors.

There are still a number of programs ahead of us before next season.

We have been sending a lot more email blasts. People are opening them and not many are unsubscribing. The programs are also going on Facebook.

- Drivers Ed: A group just finished classroom training and a new class started the next day. There are 15-18 students in each class.

The new electric vehicle (Nissan Leaf) will be delivered on Monday. We received a \$7,500 grant for this car.

We are presently holding onto the 2011 car as a back-up. Our weekend driving lessons have been busy and this gives us the ability to use 5 cars. (This extra car will have to be turned in next year.) We are also not sure how long the battery on the Nissan Leaf will last without charging, given all the stopping and starting during the lessons. Having the extra car may be helpful as we determine how often we need to charge the battery on the electric vehicle.

We're feeling fortunate that we have an SUV and an electric vehicle as part of our fleet of cars.

Eva inquired if we have a standard shift vehicle as part of the drivers ed program. Jill responded that we do not at this point because there are many logistical issues in adding a standard to the mix. Someday we will offer it - even if it's 4 hours as a part of the program.

CC is still doing driving lessons, where lots of other towns have had to cancel classes because of COVID.

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Our driving schedule is still fully booked, and we are anticipating a huge surge in students looking to join the program this spring and summer. We are in the process of hiring two more instructors.

4. Winter Planning:

We are offering 90 classes this winter. It will be different this year because they will be held on zoom, therefore weather will not effect attendance.

Some of our programs will be in conjunction with local towns; we're collaborating across the state.

The catalogue will be out the end of December offering a good variety of classes.

The winter music lessons follow a different schedule than the Adult Ed programs. IMSCC operates on a 16-week semester, so this session will run into the middle of January.

5. Can We Talk FY22 planning:

At this point we need to think about planning this program online again next year. The format is important in planning ahead. We might be able to get facilitators from outside our general area, reaching out beyond our community and challenging ourselves outside of our bubble and getting other perspectives.

What's the goal of this program? Identify issues? Solve issues?

- Charlie Baker might be a potential speaker?
- There are prominent national people.

Topics:

- Police Reform
- Gun Control
- Immigration
- Do we circle back to our First "Can We Talk" program when Mr. Nurenberg moderated Fake News? Where do we get our information?

Social Media has been able to find cracks in information and seek out tunnel groups.

We need to understand the channels of communication... what the media do, how do they obtain their information, how do they sift through it. What is the bias of the source of information? How do they process information so when we get it we can determine if it's biased.

Where's the source of our information?

- social media
- newspapers
- TV

The speed of information is so fast. What's our take-away?

We need to look at this historically.

President Regan abolished the Fairness Doctrine.

Homework:

How did we become divided?

There used to be a gatekeeping function in the late 1930's, early 40's.

We're moving into no censorship.

Freedom of speech vs. how do we monitor information?

Next meeting is December 18th.