

Athens Community Relations Commission  
September 28, 2023 | 9:00am  
Athens Library | Small Meeting Room  
Meeting Notes

Present: Kristyn Neckles, Rachel Siegel, Micah McCarey (on-line), Raymie McKerrow, John Schmieding, Izze Kaukonen, Lacey Rogers, Rebecca Robison-Miller (on-line)

1. Review September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting notes (this was actually the August meeting)  
Raymie approved, Rachel seconded
2. Old business:
  - a. **Follow up on ACRC support of LGBTQ community:**  
Email from ACSD that there will be name badges for K-4 students for libraries and bussing, legal names will be used, not preferred name, this will be harmful to children, Rachel is advocating that the preferred names be on the name tags, school staff report they are discussing how to handle this. Rachel has shared gender affirming literature to school administration.
  - b. **Support for October welcome event:**  
Michah and Lacey working on this event: Dinner on Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm at AMS to welcome new community members and families - schools, City, OHIO D& I, schools, ACF, CRC, Athens Co Racial Coalition is organizing, looking for catering from locally owned minority owners, ACF is the fiscal sponsor, D & I and COA are contributing to ACF, need help with promotions, need a marketing plan, ACRC can help spread the word, need a flyer, schools and ACRC will help promote; there will be a RSVP, this will be open to all schools in the county, personal invites are going out, how to best make sure people feel included, ACRC could be most helpful in facilitating the conversation at the event; asking people what do they need to feel more welcome; Rachel and Kristyn, Izze, Raymie can be there, maybe Rebecca; John suggested maybe ACRC have a table, it is unknown what the set up will be; ACRC can help with food pick up and other; Lacey is working with OHIO to invite international students.
  - c. **Planning for Food for Thought and/or other community engagement:**  
This will be discussed in October.
  - d. **Update on middle and high schools anti-racism work:**  
Kristyn would like to be more involved in this work. Becoming better bystander work is beginning and John will include her. Reaching out to more children and families needs to be prioritized. Extension of inclusivity work to kids with varying levels of ability needs to be considered. Standalone restorative justice curriculum development and offerings were discussed.
3. New business:
  - a. **Leadership transition**  
John, Lacey and Rebecca to discuss in a sperate meeting before the October meeting.

4. **Next meeting:** October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the small meeting room at the Athens library  
9am on Thursdays no longer works for Micah so this date will change. Rebecca will email the group about Friday mornings at 9am.