SpeakUp Meeting notes for 4-21-2022

Present: Rosalind Spells, Dawn Aulet, Ranisha Brown, Trista Graves Brown, Cynthia Powell, Mark Hopkins, and Sandy Costa

1. Going forward: who’s in? Where we clarify our mission and speak freely and respectfully.

RS: in as board and events, when can. DA: in on events

RB: in on both TGB: both—long-term collaboration and goals

SC: in on both MH: in as needed

CP: both, when can

1.2 Need volunteers to help write ‘thank you’ letters to donors, judges, and mentors.

SC volunteered.

2. A. Discussion of the event:

RS: we had a few hiccups; we could use more structure; overall—great first event!

DA: a fabulous beginning; feels her steps might have caused some problems; the judges needed more time for good feedback, contestants want more comments; Trista gets kudos for her magic on the space!

TGB: have a zoom for students for feedback; opportunity for that was on program, but in the confusion, we did not). We are a team, we all play a role; as an event planner, that’s where she will be putting her energy.

MH: also thought we were going to have more feedback time; the judges didn’t have scorecards and could have had more presence of mind.

CP: thinks it went well, just need to work out glitches.

RB: both Franklin and Billy enjoyed being part of the event.

SC: we saw the problems, but the contestants did not—nor the audience; we can get our act together now that we have the experience.

2. B. Suggestions:

SC: I think we should do 4 informal events a year and one contest in April.

TGB: we need member fees to create prizes and sign up businesses to support our work. We need more mentoring, and not just in terms of competition.

DA: we need a walking agreement of what is ‘slam’ and proceed with feedback in competition or otherwise; we could be more flexible in areas—where to mentor, choose an area—that never happened so we winged it. We need to let the contestants speak their truth without our interference.

RS: we need to get feedback from the contestants; mentors should be there when the contestants arrive and to be as excited as they are; need standards for mentors; find out why parents are not more involved.

MH: the parents need to be more involved and responsible for getting kids there, have more participation; maybe they can work as volunteers at the event.

MM: felt blessed to be there—we did it! And will keep doing it! Parents can be more involved—at least communicate more with us. We can clarify our expectations. We can look for more meetings and performances.

3. A. Future assistance, people and groups who want to support us: AKA, Edna Brass, Beth McDermott, Tia’s mom, Taelor Scott (“Love Your Sister”), Dwain Williams.

3. B. Resources: Chyaire M. Brown, MSW at DCFS

RS: we need more resources in attendance.

TGB: we HAD them there, but we were busy and did not make use of them, or announce them.

RB: have a parents’ meeting mandatory in addition to consent forms.

TGB: I met all the parents and talked to them on the phone.

4. Cynthia’s event: we promoted

5. Grant application: SC will do the township one right away; SC and TGB will do others on the 16th

6. Fundraising: to do at next meeting.

7. CPR training?

Deputy registrars?

Empowerment event: we will find a way to provide the training AS an empowerment event.

8. Next meeting:

a. logo (Scott may have students who can take on this project)

b. website

c. getting other names added to permissions for the zoom, email, and Facebook page.

d. \* see above, fundraising

New business: we will schedule a Zoom meeting on Saturday, May 14th for the judges to meet with the contestants, beginning at 9 am, ending before noon.

SC moved to end the meeting; DA seconded. Meeting ended at 8:19 pm, 4-21-22.