

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion
Rm 317 & Zoom
July 17th, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

In attendance:

Members: Pat Autilio, Susan Mullens, Molly Armbrust, Sara Campbell,
Mary Erdei.

Community members: Kim Souza, Ally Tufenkjian (Zoom)

Absent: Nancy Russell, Joe Major, Staff liaison Tatum Barnes (new)

- Meeting called to order @ 6 pm
 - Meeting Minutes of June 5th, 2024, approved, motion made by Sara Campbell, 2nd by Susan Mullens, and passed unanimously.
- Welcome to Kim Souza, community member.
- HSD Gender Inclusivity Policy: Pat discussed, and the committee is recommending reviewing the revised (last year) policy of the Hartford Schools on Gender Inclusivity for a potential recommendation for the town to consider. Discussion included looking into whether VLCT has a policy that might be helpful to adapt for Hartford. Both the School and the Town (communities) should be engaged in the policy-making of the draft as it moves toward the Selectboard for town acceptance. Sara and Kim volunteered to look into example policies to adapt for the town.
- HCOREI Charge revision modifying number of committee members was approved by both the school and select boards. Pat will produce the revised charge document and link to it on the committee's website.
- Hartford School Board will be meeting with interested community members over current budget and personnel issues on the evening of 07/18/2024.
- Pat reminded members of the new stipend policy for committee members recently passed by the Selectboard. Members may or may sign up for the stipend, but if they do decide to accept the stipend, will need to fill out the paperwork such as a W-9 form and provide to Paula Nulty, HR Director, for Town of Hartford.
- Ally Tufenkjian joined the committee on Zoom to briefly discuss the Community Safety Review (CSR). Two weeks ago, the Project made a draft of their report which has not been shared yet, but a 30-60 minute presentation to the Selectboard will be held on 07/23/24 with a possible community discussion to further discuss the report in September. The CSR Project Management Team's final meeting included 92 slides presented to the Fire Chief and Town Manager (the Police Chief could not attend). Over 300 participants responded to the CSR survey. The response demographics aligned well with those of the town.

- NAACP: There has been no response from the National NAACP organization to the over 150 applicants and funds submitted to them by the Windsor County NAACP Core Development Team. There has also been a lack of interest from the community in taking on a leadership role in the new organization. So the effort to create a Windsor County branch has been abandoned. The team will pursue support for a group called the Upper Valley BIPOC Network which is relatively new in our area.
- Hartford Student Award (A. Raynolds Memorial): Current problems include identifying where funds collected for this award should reside. We have been getting mixed messages as to whether or not HSD could keep the funds. The goal is to establish grants for student applicants, beginning with a pool of funds totaling \$2,500.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

HCOREI Members

[Note: This roster reflects that both boards have now approved the most recent change to our charge reducing the number of voting members to seven.]

- Pat Autilio, Chair (through 4/1/2026)
- Molly Armbrust, Student Liaison, Vice Chair
- (shared) - Clerk
- Sara Campbell, Community Member – (through 3/11/2026)
- Susan Mullens, Community Member – (through 8/22/2025)
- Joe Major, Community Member (through 4/29/2026)
- Nancy Russell, School Board Member
- Mary Erdei, Selectboard Member