



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Youth & Education Committee Minutes
February 28, 2024, 7:00pm - 7:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Jabari Lyles, Committee Chair
Sarah Stern
Joan Bryan
Wendy Novak
Ex-Officio: Chair Lee Blinder
Staff: Director Jeremy Browning

Members Not Present:

Asher Kennedy
Kijana West, Committee Vice Chair

- I. Committee Chair Lyles called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and welcomed new members.
- II. Committee Chair Lyles acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Lyles.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Committee Chair Lyles called a vote and the agenda was approved with all members in favor.
- V. Approval of 12.6.2023 Minutes: Committee Chair Lyles called a vote and the agenda was approved with all members in favor.
- VI. Discussion - rollout of Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students:
 - A. Committee Chair Lyles gave an overview and history of the Recommendations and Director Browning provided updates that the Administration and MSDE look forward to meeting with the Youth & Education Committee following the end of the legislative session.
 - B. Commissioner Bryan organized a meeting with Committee Chair Lyles to share the Recommendations with Baltimore County Public Schools.
- VII. Discussion - Building connections and infrastructure around the state to connect allied organizations: The committee discussed ancillary groups forming to better connect advocates and allies across the state.

- VIII. Discussion - Combating anti-LGBTQIA+ hate in schools:
 - A. The committee had a robust discussion about the challenges and opportunities to address dangerous misinformation.
 - B. A moment of silence was held for Nex Benedict, Two Spirit (Chata/Choctaw) youth who we lost to hate, bullying, and assault in Oklahoma. Followed by additional discussion on potential actions the Commission can take.
 - C. Commissioner Novak made a motion to create a separate workgroup of the Youth & Education Committee to address anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and misinformation and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - D. Commissioner Novak made a motion to suggest the Commission take joint action/statement calling attention to anti-LGBTQIA+ violence and the loss of Nex Benedict.
- IX. Discussion - Potential funding needs: There was not sufficient time to discuss funding needs and committee members were instructed to come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- X. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Lyles at 8:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Director, Jeremy Browning