

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Meeting
June 3, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Board Room
Staunton Public Library
1 Churchville Ave.

PRESENT: Jordan Zipser, Belinda Osario, Mark Jeter, Ian Callahan

Jordan called the meeting open at 6:11 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Jordan moved to approve the Community Connections Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2026. The motion was approved by Mark and was unanimously approved.

2. School Belonging Event

- Belinda shared notes (at end of document) with specifics related to event planning; subcommittee reviewed details for the upcoming fall art event, including –
 - Timing: competition is in progress throughout the fall months
 - Goal of event: all-levels art event focused on the themes of kindness and belonging
 - Potential budget items (forthcoming): space rental fee, if any additional items that need to be paid for via Dr. Irizarry
 - Fundraising assist: how we can support Staunton City Schools to accomplish these goals (e.g., securing corporate sponsorships, etc.)?

Suggested a preliminary timeline sketch —

- Phase 1: Competition (Fall 2026 - October to November)
 - Art is submitted
 - Winners get selected with two teachers by end of October
 - Select art is determined for print materials (TBD)
- Phase 2: Showcasing the art
 - Gallery event happens in Staunton City School (mid-November)
 - Winners are announced on or before event
- Phase 3: Sharing the art
 - Calendars, t-shirts, etc.) featuring winners
- Phase 4 (TBD): Potential community event
 - Discussing options at SAAC and/or Library

3. Board Outreach

- emails sent by mid-June to the following –
 - Housing: Mark
 - Library: Jordan
 - Tourism: Ian

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Updates and notes about “Kindness Belongs Here” event

Dr. Irizarry has designated two Art Teachers to assist the DEI staff. DEI will be working with them once school is in session, after summer recess.

The event will include Kindergarten, thus increasing the number of students who can participate.

A prize for each “bundled category,” i.e.; Kindergarten, 1-2, 6-8, and finally High School (9-12), will be given, and showcased (on display) at an *Awards Program*.

Awards Program will celebrate the winning students chosen for the Calendar; first place, second place, third place and fourth place.

DEI has received permission to raise funds and garner sponsorships from the City Council. Proceeds to go to the already existing school fund.

Outreach/Visibility

This is a unique opportunity to reach the entire Staunton Community, including elected and appointed officials, local businesses, corporate stakeholders, community activists, leaders, students, Library and Senior Citizens.

Local visibility; The New Leader, WHSV, WTON AM 1240, WQSV 106.3 FM. TV spots, radio listings, etc.

Outreach creates sponsorship opportunities;

- Logo placement on the Calendar.

- Banner in Award room.

Street art.

Street sign banner.

Program book: full page ads, ½ page ads, ¼ page ads.

Refreshment/meal situation for winners. (Luncheon)

- Private VIP reception.

- T-shirt sponsorship.

- Postcards.

- Caps.

- Opportunity to Speak at Event.

Categories of Sponsorship: Gold, Silver, Bronze

Corporations

Target	Sheetz
Walmart	Wells Fargo
Amazon	Kohl's
UPS	Chick-fil-A Corporation
Deloitte	Red Lobster
Daikin	Burger King
Best Buy	Pet Smart
Starbucks	TJ Maxx
Cracker Barrel	Taco Bell
YMCA	Aldi
Auto Zone	7-11
Panera Bread	Dunkin'
Xcel Tech	Goodwill
Dollar General	Kmart

Local Restaurants.