

Peace Education Meeting Notes

Meeting was held on Monday, November 20th at Big E's Coffeehouse

Members present: Joyce Raby, Mark Libowitz, Arlene Sweeting

1. Joyce has talked to several school administrators informally. Before we schedule a formal meeting we need to be clear on what we have to offer. Put together an information packet including research showing effectiveness of peace education programs in other schools. How can we help teachers and students? What do we really have to offer?
2. Arlene has found an 8-week non-violence course online that is drawn from Coleman McCarthy's curriculum - www.salsa.net/peace/conv/index.html. All the readings are online. We could use this course to start a study circle on nonviolence. Perhaps also start a blog so people who couldn't attend the study circle could post their thoughts and interact with others participating in the course. Kick this off at the start of the Season of Nonviolence - January 30th.
3. We should also start listing resources we find useful on the SWFCPJ website. This will be a resource that we can offer teachers.
4. At our next meeting Mark will take us through a group visioning process. Prior to that meeting Joyce and Arlene will try to put together a proposal to present to potential funders that clarifies what our goals are (short-term and long-term) and how we will go about achieving them. We also need to have a budget for the project.
5. We discussed the need for a physical space in which to operate. Would the County/City be willing to donate space for a youth center? Investigate United Community Centers in Bradenton

- they have a partnership with the City of Bradenton - where they will be building their new center on City property. Arlene will talk to their Director.

6. Funding will be a priority. We would like to try to meet with P. Duisberg before January. Joyce suggested approaching local businesses/corporations to be sponsors of the project. Metro Café and Natural Awakenings were mentioned.
7. Challenge Day was recently featured on Oprah. The Challenge Day program is designed to help stop the violence and alienation that youth face every day. There is a local contact for the program, Arlene will contact him for more information. With the attention this program has received we might be able to use it to get a foot in the door.
8. We will have our next meeting further South to try and attract participation from Venice residents that are interested. Mark will see if the Sufi Center is available on Dec. 4th in the afternoon.
9. Prior to the next meeting Mark will try to meet with Arlene and Joyce individually to help draw out ideas that will further our work.