



OBSERVER REPORT

TASK FORCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION—2-13-25

Glover School Conference Room-Hybrid

LWVM Observer-Shari Pressman

Members in Attendance: Helaine Hazlett, Diane Gora, Deacon Joe Whipple, Reece Dahlberg, Eugenia Guastaferrri, Maren Potter

Louis Meyi and Jay Morrison (Marblehead Racial Justice Team)

Marblehead Police Department News-Chief King wasn't present, but left word that there had been one act of hate which he couldn't comment on yet.

Update on Marblehead Public Schools- Maren reported that there were 20 students and two members of the School Committee sub-committee at the Flag Policy meeting. All School Committee members were expected. In a survey of all students, 109 believed that students should have a voice in flag policy, 1 didn't know and 2 answered "no". Students at the meeting said flags were meaningful and important to their identities. The group helped students work on a policy statement about flags in the building. School Committee said that they "have to follow the law", referring to *Shurtleff v City of Boston*. Maren also reported that the Superintendent met with representatives from ADL, METCO and 10 students. He led the group discussion, commenting that flags show diversity and listened to METCO's request for more holiday displays of identity.

Google forms were given to all Village students and faculty. Forty-nine responders, including Principal Matt Fox, favored reading *Punching the Air* by Yusef Salaam and Ibi Zoboi. Students will complete a "bookmark" (their reaction) after reading. *Punching the Air* is geared to older students at Village. Sixty books were ordered.

Update on Holocaust Remembrance Day- Two events were held on the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. at noon on January 31, an estimated 75 people filled Abbot Hall's foyer to witness a candle-lighting ceremony and

commemoration. That evening at 6:00, Temple Emanuel hosted the second event, attended by about 100 people. Select Board member Moses Grader delivered a moving speech. MHS senior Jared Kaplowich, the great-grandson of Holocaust survivors, spoke about his family's story and reminded his generation about the obligation to pass on what had happened during WWII, continuing to teach the history and working toward a world where that can't happen again.

Discussion of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration-

TFAD can work with MHS's celebration in May and with their Team Harmony faculty advisor, Latin teacher Dalena Nguyen.

Discussion-TFAD and Social Media-Reece noted that people spoke with her about not being aware of the Holocaust Remembrance events. TFAD could have a social media presence maintained by students. She believes there was once a Facebook page.

Update-Marblehead Racial Justice Team-Lou and Jay spoke about the very successful Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day Community Breakfast at Old North Church, cosponsored by Marblehead League of Women Voters and the Marblehead Ministerial Association. MRJT would like it to become an annual event.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 13