Minority & Retention Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2022

Members present: Jason Smith, Sissy Gray, Pat Johnson, Dane Dillion, Shana Sartain, Raul Blasini, Karen Liebhaber, Alex Avery present to take minutes.

Yesterday on August 17, 2022 16 people from various organizations and business met at the Eddie Mae Herron Center to discuss a Literacy program for the Marshallese community of our area. The reason for this program is to reach out to the community in order to build relationships with its members in hopes of utilizing the resources that Pocahontas has to offer.

Pat mentioned that before meeting with the students and wanting them to join our project that a trust needs to be built with them first. The leaders of their communities need to be a part of the planning process for these programs instead of being told they needed to attend.

Raul also shared that the backpack event that happened previous to school starting was a success. He stated that many families do not have vehicles so one person would go and get children, bring them to get supplies then go get different children from a different household to get supplies.

Although BRTC is talking the lead on the Literacy project it is not the whole intention of this task force.

Pat, Jason and Raul’s next steps will be getting in contact with community leaders and setting up a meeting, on a Saturday so that more can attend and not have to miss work.

Meeting adjourned.