

Minutes from Dutchess County Complete Count Committee Meeting Sept. 13, 2019

The Dutchess County Complete Count Committee met on Sept. 13, 2019 at the Dutchess County Mental Health Center, 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie.

Committee members attending were: John Penney, Jonathan Bix, Seema Rizvi, Mario Johnson, Gabriela Owen, and Jordan Pollack, a Vassar College student who attended on behalf of Maffy Malaver.

Penney updated the group on outreach efforts to date. They included speaking with the Red Hook Together community group, the Amenia Town Board, Mid-Hudson Library System, and the Village of Wappingers Falls

Dutchess BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Richard Hooley attended the meeting and talked about what he could do to coordinate an effort with the Dutchess County school superintendents to spread the word about the census.

Dr. Hooley believes the superintendents will be amenable to helping in some respects, but that the districts won't necessarily do something on the same day. He said it would be hard to prescribe such a coordinated strategy, but he said he was confident the districts would acknowledge the importance of the census and help raise awareness about it. He understood the need for the districts to act by March. He said many classes do public service projects during the school year and this would be a good one.

Dr. Hooley offered Penney an invitation to speak with the superintendents about the census at their monthly meeting in October. Penney will make a presentation at the Oct. 25 meeting, and Hooley said he will follow up with the superintendents afterward to include census information in classroom instruction in the early part of 2020. Committee members also said it was imperative that the information be sent home to parents. Committee members also suggested doing outreach about the census to PTA groups and to see if census discussions could be incorporated into Parent Teacher Conferences.

Gabriela Owen said she wanted more information about the outreach efforts other committee members are doing. Penney said he has distributed to the committee the PowerPoint presentation he has been using, and that they should feel to use it as well in any outreach efforts. He said he also has sent information along in Spanish and will send a good summary document. Penney said if committee members needed any printed material they should ask him.

Committee member Karen Dipnarine-Saroop is distributing census material at events that the Dutchess County Interfaith Council is hosting in late September.

Rizvi said she intends to distribute information at a Muslim community annual in late September with about 100 families attending.

Johnson said will be handing out census information at the PACE and Warring Elementary School open house events in September.

Penney said the outreach efforts will continue in October with presentations to the Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors Association, The Town of Washington and Town of Pine Plains already on the schedule. The Complete Count Committee also will have a table the Hyde Park Community Day and the Dover Community Day.