

Juneteenth Proposal

ROOTS: Black Excellence Club

Advisor(s)

Mr. Kwaku Osei-Tutu(kosei-tutu@twpunionschools.org)

Ms. Marjorie Hargrave(mhargrave@twpunionschools.org)

Ms. Patricia Bridges(patbridges@twpunionschools.org)

Mr. Michael Mayes (mmayes@twpunionschools.org)

Club Leaders/Officers

Nichole Acheampong(nichole.acheampong@twpunionschools.org)

Ugochi Adibemma (ugochi.adibemma@twpunionschools.org)

Victoria Ojibe (victoria.ojibe@twpunionschools.org)

Joanne Ero (joanne.ero@twpunionschools.org)

Obianuju Nwanonyiri (obianuju.nwanonyiri@twpunionschools.org)

History/Purpose:

Juneteenth is a Federal and state recognized holiday which celebrates and commemorates the liberation of the last held enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1866. It was on this date that federal troops entered Texas (the western most state of the Confederacy) and informed enslaved Africans of the Emancipation Proclamation thus making them amongst the last enslaved peoples in the former Confederacy to be freed. This observance and celebration has occurred in many parts of Texas since then and many other parts of the country since the 1980's. The name represents a combination of the words, "June" and "Nineteenth". The combination of English words and syllabus was a common practice amongst Africans enslaved in America trying to learn English whilst still leaning on their traditional West and Central African language patterns. The purpose of this event is to educate and bring awareness to our community regarding the topic of Juneteenth and its effect on African American history and American modern culture. This event is also designed to provide a platform of unity and understanding across the African diaspora (the spreading out of African descended people worldwide) as well as multiple racial and cultural backgrounds in the community.

Location Options:

- ★ High School Auditorium
- ★ Main and Side Parking Lots

Event:

Date: Thursday the 16th of June

Location: HS Auditorium

Details: The ROOTS: Black Excellence Club will introduce a theme of "Juneteenth: Back to the Motherland Edition" where there will be a celebration of the different cultures across the African Diaspora. Through dance, spoken word (African American style rhythmic poetry), traditional food

etc.. There will be 3 segments (1 - A talking segment for people to gain knowledge and be educated on topics, most likely led by a panel and/or speaker(s) 2- Fashion, most likely led by a local designer/clothing store 3-Dance and the arts). The primary purpose of this is not to focus on entertainment but the gaining and spreading of knowledge and information which is in the tradition of great African and African American culture.

There is also a plan to have a local African/African American restaurant cater or supply samples of cuisine.

Equipment,staffing and area requirements:

The advisors of the club will be present as well as any other staff that would like to attend. At this point, we can only guarantee the presence of advisors. We would require use of the auditorium and AV equipment as well as a few tables and chairs for the purpose of greeting and admitting guests, 2-3 security officers would be required.

COVID 19 Planning:

It is difficult to predict the condition and situation of the Covid 19 post pandemic months ahead of time. However, as of this date we would consider and accept the free will of individuals to wear or not wear masks if they choose. Proof of vaccination is not within our capabilities to confirm and therefore not required for attendance.

Summation:

As stated earlier in this proposal, the intent behind this event is to facilitate strength, unity, and understanding within the community. These are challenging and polarizing times and we see this as a great opportunity to spread knowledge, awareness, support and open mindedness, which is needed greatly during this time.

We hope this proposal is well received and considered as our “Juneteenth: Back in the Motherland” celebration. Thank you for working with us and we look forward to your favorable response and continued support.

-ROOTS: Black Excellence Club Advisors and student leadership