

Gamma Eta Meeting

Location: Virtual Google Meet

Date: January 26, 2021

Meeting began at 7:02 p.m. by Tiffany Long

Attendance

Anna Christian Allen, Jennifer Cates, Maria Childrey, Lisa Coster, Judy Wilson, Beth Gulewich, Tiffany Long, Amanda Morton, Debbie Parrish, Serena Pearce, Patricia Roberson, Amanda Rossi, Liz Sheehan, Marissa Smith, Sharon Welker, Laura Woods and guests Susan Gavin and Robin Giberson (WCPSS award winning teachers); Nicole Meserth and Peggy Wilder tried to join but had technical difficulties

Welcome

1. Tiffany introduced Robin Giberson and Susan Gavin, who shared a bit about themselves. Robin teaches 4th grade at Buckhorn Creek Elementary, is a new grandmother, and is hiking the mountain to sea trail in her spare time. Susan currently teaches 1st grade at Wendell Charter but has over 20 years of Preschool to 8th grade teaching experience.
2. Robin expressed interest in becoming a member of Gamma Eta and it is our hope that Susan would share the same interest.

Program

1. Jennifer presented a program on the book *I Wish My Teacher Knew* by Kyle Schwartz, chosen by Tiffany and her. She thanked Judy for allowing our treasury to purchase copies for each member. Discussion ensued, noting how special the little notes interspersed in each chapter captured the essence of how to learn about a student and build relationships with them. We all know how teachers can make a difference in a child's life but the book emphasised creating welcoming atmospheres, allowing students to "teach" teachers, empathising with and modeling for students, teaching confidence, character, a growth mindset, and grit. We had a joyful sidebar of the Latin roots of "self-efficacy", and agreed that this is a worthy virtue. While the book dealt mainly with elementary school scenarios, so much could also be applied to teenagers. Discussion followed, emphasising the importance and difficulty of building and maintaining these needed experiences and tools during the pandemic and virtual teaching.
2. Anna Christian reflected on ways to make connections now with students, when so many are virtual. She has weekly check-ins with her students where they share emojis to describe their moods. She mentioned that the poetic images and symbolism shared by poet Amanda Gorman during her reading at Biden's inauguration reignited her own passion from the mundanity of virtual teaching.

Business

1. Tiffany shared information about available DKG [grants](#), and the January 31 deadline. There are many choices, opportunities, and diversity.
2. Jennifer spoke about upcoming meetings; check the [website](#) for specifics.
 - a. February - most likely virtual
 - b. March - possibly a group service project, perhaps at the Food Bank, but this will depend on warehouse and pandemic restrictions, as well as member comfort levels. An invitation for Gamma Theta to join us was mentioned.
 - c. No meeting in April

- d. An outdoor meeting in the Rose Garden would be a lovely consideration
3. Serena announced the need for new member nominations. Forms should be submitted and reviewed by March, so that a presentation of nominations and voting can be done, with initiation in May. For membership forms, please [click & download here](#) or contact [Serena Pearce](#) or [Tiffany Long](#).
4. Judy announced that...
 - a. dues must be received by her by May 15th. Dues are \$85 for active members, \$45 for those on reserve. Dues may be paid to her in installments. Judy's address - Judy Wilson, 1621 Lake Glen Drive, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526, checks payable to Gamma Eta
 - b. We have enough funds for two Phoebe Emmons scholarships, but we'll let interest accrue on that line item until next year. Because of the pandemic distraction, scholarship information wasn't disseminated to the high schools.
5. Anna Christian has cleaned up and kept current the [website](#), adding photos and calendar. You can [link our chapter calendar](#) to your school calendar! She'll update our spring meeting dates.
6. Elisabeth pulled up the [10.17.20 minutes](#) and asked for any corrections. Minutes are posted on the [website](#).
7. Tiffany thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting : February, tba

Submitted by Elisabeth McChesney, on January 29, 2020