Call to Order/Introductions
Dr. Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.
Approval of the September 28, 2017 Minutes
The September 28, 2017 minutes were revised as follows: the originator of the comments on the Refugee Task Force was changed from Gretchen Livingston to “an attendee reported” and Rebecca Mendoza, school board member, was added to the list of attendees for District 65.

City Update on Equity Initiatives
Ms. Efiom, Equity and Empowerment Coordinator, provided an update on Equity Initiatives for the City of Evanston. She reported that the City has created an Equity and Empowerment Commission and has started creating a strategic plan. They have started work on an equity program and are deep into training with 60 people to date attending a Beyond Diversity program. She was pleased to report that the Mayor hosted a community conversation on race, that was televised, before Christmas; the start of an entire series on race. Ms. Efiom also reported that the City has received “All People Are Welcome” signs for the City, in response to the welcoming city ordinance that was adopted by the City Council. Overall, feedback from the community on these equity initiatives has been positive.

Dr. Goren, District 65 Superintendent, said that they have created an equity statement and are also conducting training through SEED and Beyond Diversity, with over 500 staff trained, as well as working to build a culturally relevant curriculum. He announced that District 65 is making a commitment to black student achievement by hiring a Director of Black Student Success and an Equity Coach. The goal of these two positions is to assist teachers with equity strategies in the classroom.

After School and Summer Youth Programs and Activities
Mr. Hemingway, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, reported on some of the upcoming youth programs and activities which included online registration opening on February 10 for Evanston 2018 Summer Camps and the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Job Fair on March 3 at ETHS. Ms. Livingston asked if the job fair was only open to youth living in Evanston and not “Skevanston”. Mr. Hemingway responded in the affirmative. Mr. Bobkiewicz, explained that Skokie employers did not express interest in joining the job fair, therefore all of the employers at the job fair are Evanston-based for the City for Evanston youth. However, students residing in the 60203 zip code may receive a list of employers in that area, if they are interested.

Dr. Goren, District 65 Superintendent, distributed a packet outlining District 65’s summer learning proposal which included seven different programs. Mr. Callam, Project Director for EvanSTEM, explained the program recommendations. Ms. Lyons, Evanston Public Library Director, said they expanded their reach from birth to senior citizen for the Evanston Reads program, with summer being the highest peak for reading.

Dr. Witherspoon said that summers at ETHS are busy with summer school and camps that will serve over 2,000 students.
**Black Summits**

Dr. Campbell, District 202 Assistant Superintendent/Principal, explained that ETHS is in its 4\textsuperscript{th} year of Black Student Summits, part of ETHS’s Social Consciousness Series, that were held on February 6, 2018 and February 8, 2018. This year’s theme was “Get Woke, Stay Woke” and allowed for open student discussion on identity and the implications of social constructions students face related to race. This is the first year that they removed the gender binary and included a student planning board and committee to help identify the topics and purpose statements for the curriculum planners to use in their sessions. Dr. Campbell briefly explained the sessions which included: Mask Off; Defining Blackness; Between You and Me; Black and Queer; Our Blackness (The Diaspora); Relationships; Self-Hate/Self Love; Intersectionality and Know Your Rights.

Ms. Efiom said it would be great to offer something like the Black Summits to the community. Dr. Witherspoon agreed and a brief discussion ensued on the topic.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

*Next meeting: April 26, 2018 at District 65*

Respectfully submitted by Lisa De La Fuente
Administrative Assistant, Evanston Township High School