

# **Maine Swimming Athletes Committee/DEI Committee Meeting Minutes**

**5:30 pm via Zoom**

**6/11/20**

Mission Statement: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming

Vision Statement: You CAN get there from here!

Athlete Committee Present: Kristy Barry (Chair), Emma Farnham (Secretary), Ali Bragg, McKayla Kendall, Keegan McKenney, Ethan Schulz, T.J. Willis, Sadie Woodruff

Athlete Committee Absent: Brim Peabody

DEI Committee Present: Kiron Das, Haley Foydel, Zachary Mullin, John Smith

DEI Committee Absent: Jaehee Park, Ethan Smith, Carrie Wood Peabody

Guest: Rahim Booth, Nadine Jesionek, Mary Ellen Tynan, Dane Wolfrom

We began by introducing ourselves and also talking about why we are on the call.

Dane told us 4 rules.

- 1.) Assume positive intent
- 2.) Listening To Each Other And Understand The Person's POV
- 3.) Keep Everything That Is Said Here Stays In The Call
- 4.) Create A Safe Space

## **Discussion:**

First Question: What have you heard about white privilege?

- Advantage, ability, representation, comparison between different races
- Barriers within the sport of swimming regarding race

Second Question: What do I know about Black people? What have I heard about Black people? What do I think about Black people? (What're some things you've heard about Black people in Maine) (What have you guys heard or seen in the media about Black people)

- As a whole the athletes haven't had a lot of exposure with people of color but we do feel that there needs to be more awareness about the different injustices.
- At school or in other places we haven't seen a lot of negative comments about Black people but in the case that we do it is usually somebody who is uneducated.
- Depending on the different media outlets we hear different things about Black people

- It is hard for us to talk about this because we aren't completely educated and we don't know what to say or how to say it correctly.

Rahim Booth then shared his experience. He said that in Baltimore he was able to get exposure to many people. Coming to the sport of swimming he had to work 3 times as hard as other coaches. He said that his community is predominantly Title 1. As a coach he needs to teach about safety and education as well. He doesn't want us to be fearful because we lack education he said to receive more information and learn about differences. If you see something say something.

Nadin then shared her experience with being exposed to how people see people differently or how people see people the same. She said she lives in an extremely diverse community. She also said that if we are seeing something in the media that makes us feel a certain way, do a self check and talk to our friends and figure out how we feel about it and how we would like to change whatever issue it may be. She also said that we could get involved as swimmers by being a lifeguard to help others who may not be able to swim.

#### Steps To Making A Statement:

- 1.) Owns social identity group and privilege
- 2.) Puts heart out to local organizations and people who have been affected
- 3.) Explain systematic issues
- 4.) Commit to what MESI will do
- 5.) A call to action