



Diane Cappiello <dcappiello@twpunionschools.org>

Step Show Assembly

1 message

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To: Diane Cappiello <dcappiello@twpunionschools.org>
Cc: Kira Baskerville-Williams <kbwilliams@twpunionschools.org>

Tue, Feb 7, 2023 at 10:52 AM

Good morning Diane -

Can you please add the below to the Feb. Board meeting agenda for approval?

FES Presents for Black History month
Step Show Assembly on Feb 24

The Step Show Assembly will include members from Meet the Greeks Divine 9 Expo

The members are donating their time to expose our children to this historical means of communication that has been utilized throughout the African American community for many decades.

Stepping is a collection of rhythms made by using the hands and feet, and occasionally props such as canes. Responding to chants or calls, a team stomps their feet or claps hands to a base beat along with moving into different formations. In actuality there is more to stepping than this and the rich history of this form of entertainment is rather interesting.

Stepping has its beginnings in the early African American slave community as a means of communication and keeping hold of traditional aspects of the denied culture. It served mainly as a link back to African tribal dance, which in many areas was prohibited. Call-and-response folk songs helped the slaves to survive culturally and to spread word about important matters, such as the Underground Railroad. Several generations later, Black World War II veterans added in a military march theme to the sounds, while Motown grooves and Hip-Hop energy added more entertainment and increased the appeal of the art form.

In the late 1960s, historically Black fraternities and sororities began embracing stepping at college campuses. Overall, stepping in these organizations provides an enjoyable bonding experience. Younger audiences have created teams at the high school level as well."

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