



Montville Youth Advisory Board Minutes

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March 16, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Montville Community Center

Special Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman: Daniel Dunn, Tim Shanahan, Brianne Messer, Susan Rickards, Dan Boisvert, Sheelagh Lapinski, Officer Karen Aleshire

Also Present: MYSB Director Barbara Lockhart, Youth Liaisons Addie Concascia & Brendan Duhamel and MYSB Administrative Assistant Dianne Peltier

Absent: Town Council Liaison Councilman Robert Yuchniuk, Vouise Fonville, Loretta Drain and William Carlos

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. Chairman's Report (Dan Dunn)

- Communications/Correspondence
 - Talked again about using text rather than email for communicating for meeting attendance
- Other Business to Report
 - N/A

II. Town Council Liaison Update (Robert Yuchniuk)

- No Report

III. New Business

- Shamrock Shakes
 - Always a great time! Serving up shakes from 3:00 – 5:30
- Focus Groups for DMHAS
 - Barbara sent information to Superintendent looking for students/parents to participate in a zoom about mental health. Gift cards are available for all who participant
- Summer Center
 - Runs from June 27th through August 17th \$450 (check, money order and cash only). Field trips, breakfast and lunch are included. Registration is Monday, May 8th starting at 8:30. First come, first serve and 30 spots are available

- Youth Testimony
 - Jimsly Joseph and Brendan Duhamel both testified via zoom to the Appropriations Committee on behalf of all Youth Services asking for an additional \$60,000 each for Mental Health and diversion initiatives
- Counseling
 - Received an additional \$15,000 from ARPA funds. Added another day to the counseling services – very busy
- Sustainable Committee
 - Using an equity toolkit as a guideline to earn points to make Montville a more equitable town, which attracts more people into the town.
- LEAD
 - Free table program – qualifications include Husky, WIC, EBT, etc., vet disability or earns \$45,000 or less with one pay stub. Handout will be March 31, 2023 at the Community Center
- Van
 - Pick up tomorrow, 7 passenger, ARPA funds – being used to pick up Mohegan students to get them to the ASP at a decent time and also YAC related outings, special license which one staff member already has and another who is in the process of getting one

IV. Old Business

- Green Out Day for Sandy Hook
 - Nice turnout, The Day Paper covered the story, the luminary bags with hand-drawn pictures of victims' pictures were sent to Newtown
- Stocking Drive
 - Goal was met and beyond! Thank you to all who donated gift cards!
- STEAP
 - New gym floor and new front floor finished. Bathroom renovations are coming soon
- ARPA
 - Split units are underway!
- Winter Wonderland
 - Penny Drive – Youth Center/Program in FL rebuilding after hurricane, Pie in the Face Contest coming soon
- Courageous Conversation
 - More successful as an assembly or a zoom, The Impact of Legalized Cannabis on Our Youth & Community – March 29, 7pm on zoom, more info or to register go to www.LYSB.org

V. YAC (Youth Action Council) (Brendan Duhamel Report)

- Mental Health & Social Media Survey
 - 112 responses – 2/3 of MHS students spend 6 or more hours a week on their phones
 - 66% of students are distracted from school or school work by their phones
 - Nearly 80% of students check social media as part of their daily routines
 - Social media affects 70% of MHS students' mood
 - 58% of MHS students report that social media has influenced their decision to speak up or shut up
 - YAC members will be creating posts around this information, and will also create some educational posts about social media safety
- Strive for 85 Vaping Campaign
 - YAC members have been working on social media posts, flyers and banners
 - Book covers (play on words for vaping) will be put in the Raymond Hill Library, and hopefully TYL & MHS libraries
 - Flyers with QR code to our parent information post saying that 85% of youth in Eastern CT have never vaped in their lifetime
 - Social media posts using positive information and additional educational posts will be posted on social media within the next week
 - Barb added that Addie created new banners about marijuana to add to playgrounds and ball fields
 - Karen added that vaping is a huge issue within the population of students that vape – 5 expulsions and 10 distributions
- Podcast
 - YAC Chat with Josie podcast will be live tomorrow! Links to podcast will be available on our FB page. Josie's second podcast will be live around spring break. A second podcast will be available from Dan & Jenna sometime in May

VI. Good & Welfare

- Mental Health resource bags for self-care which YAC will be putting together and make available to counselors to hand out as needed

VII. JRB Update (Cases, Dispositions, Referrals)

- Cases
 - Case load has increased a lot since changes were made at the JJ court – Predict assessment is used, high risk court keeps otherwise referred back to JRB

VIII. Other Business

- Grants (State & Local)
- Budgets (State & Local)
 - Waiting to hear July 1st if the \$60,000 will be approved for each Youth Service Bureau

X. Adjournment, 1st Tim, 2nd Dan B.

Motion to adjourn made by Dan, 1st Susan, 2nd Tim

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

XI. Next Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023 – 6:00pm Montville Community Center

Submitted by Dianne Peltier, Administrative Assistant MYSB