

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Mayor's Youth Council Special Meeting
6:00 PM Town Hall Room 217



1. Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order

- Chair Sarah Granquist called special meeting to order at 6:01 PM

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

- Present: Daphne Brewer, Ailani Roach, Kushal Gauli, Francesca Giordano, Sarah Granquist, Oliver Hartmann, Joseph Landino, Charlotte Mullin, Isabelle Mulready, Alexis Nguyen, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli, Grace Piccioli, Abby Sanderson, Caeli Sullivan, Lia Wright, Catherine Zehr
- Late Arrival: Ava DellaFera, Ailani Roach
- Absent: Adam Gold, Kikoh Mordukai, Priya Shinde, Priya Sinha
- Guest Speaker: Gretchen Levitz from the West Hartford Prevention Council

2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved at 6:03 PM with no changes made

3. School Reports

A. Conard

- Midterms concluded
- The orchestra has a concert with the 8th graders from Sedgwick and Bristow
- Music auditions
- Semester 1 ended and semester 2 began

B. Hall

- Midterms concluded
- Similar concert to Conard next week (a day after Conard)
- Semester 1 ended and semester 2 began
- Music auditions for select Orchestral, Band, and Vocal groups (Solists, Concert Jazz Band, and Choraliers → Secretary Rudra Singh will be a Choralier returner and will help lead the group auditions)

C. Kingswood Oxford

- Author visit and assembly
- Moh said that finished a Symposium course for seniors that lasted for the first semester
- Semester 1 ended and semester 2 began

4. Chair & Subcommittee Reports

A. Chair

- None

B. Secretary

- None

C. Social Media

- None

D. Outreach / Recruitment

E. Holiday Giving Committee

- Received Thank You letter Adopt a Family
- Will discuss further ideas and projects during work session
 - a. Another Fundraiser?

F. Mental Health Committee

- Priya was absent, so Mrs. Karp spoke on her behalf
 - a. Therapy Dogs - May
 - Idea to have therapy dogs for the final exams and AP exams
 - Looking for a program similar to the therapy dog meet-and-greet program used by Simsbury Library
 - Possible Contacts: Tails of Joy, Bright Spot, Gizmo's Frens, and Cold Noses, Warm Hearts
 - Need to consider liability insurance and other information (paperwork needed to start idea)

G. Political Activism Committee

- a. Poll Workers - April

- Reached out to registrar to get permission for students to work at primary elections
- Volunteer option (payment included) for students 16 and older
- b. Student Voter Registration Drive
 - Voter registration drives at each school (project setup still in progress)

5. Old Business

A. Kindness Project Installation

- Butterfly Project happening at the Noah Webster Library
- Painted ceramic butterflies in schools to represent child Holocaust victims
- Had these butterflies at the library for a year and public installation is needed for better publicity
- Over 50 butterflies needed to attach to a wall in the library (volunteers needed)
- Plaque needed to explain the project (draft written and presented by Mrs. Karp)

B. West Hartford Prevention Partnership Coalition Meeting

- PHACTT is a marketing campaign project; students will create a dynamic marketing strategy to raise awareness of mental health issues in the youth through a PSA-style campaign that will deliver accurate health information to students in their own schools and community
- Searching for creative student-led mental health projects focusing on a specific topic
- Nothing approved yet, so all students are encouraged to apply for a project
- Presentation concluded at 6:24PM

C. Rise Up for the Arts Proposal

- Muralists who have created important artwork in Hartford and West Hartford
- Proposal submitted for \$5,000 to do a project for the Teen Room in the Noah Webster Library
- Will work with the Prevention Council to fund project, which means that the mural will have to be related to mental health

- Ms. Levitz's Idea: Create a digital mural as well
 - 109 Square Feet mural to foster creativity in teens
 - Counts as a public art contribution and workshops will exist for teens to come and collaborate throughout the creation process under the guidance of a professional
 - Present mural to Town Council for financial support (MYC representative may be present as well) and gain teen support (from Hall's National Art Honor Society; other schools pending)
 - Additional Topic: Council discussed teen disconnectedness post-COVID
 - a. Art Club Collaboration?
- D. Storytelling Circle Update
- No updates on the Storytelling Circle project

6. New Business

- A. West Hartford Community of Concern Social 1/17
- Happened last week, but the MYC was not notified in time
 - Could have been a good networking opportunity for MYC members to learn about the Teen Wellness Fair happening in March
 - Perhaps the MYC Mental Health Subcommittee could collaborate with the Community of Concern
 - Moh brought up the previous idea of MYC shirts → Adam has been working on setting up the printing, but the process may not be fast enough for the idea to occur this year
 - Evan said that he could get the shirts printing for much lower cost at Conard → MYC members wrote down their shirt sizes on a piece of paper

7. Announcements

- A. West Hartford Immigrant Teens - UN Declaration of Human Rights - Town Hall Weds. 1/17 5:30-7
- a. Heal Africa Fundraiser
 - West Hartford Immigrant Teens made \$200 at the UN Declaration of Human Rights reading 1/17
 - Donations will go towards Heal Africa to support the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- B. Other Announcements

- Emergency alert from West Hartford food pantry that they are low on six important food items → MYC could potentially work on a project to collect food for the pantry (working under the Holiday Giving Project)
- Another Holiday Giving project idea: Distributed bags with specific amenities to the homeless; Conard may be able to allow admission to sports events using food donations instead of money
- Mrs. Karp announced that starting next month, all MYC meetings will be in Room 400 instead due to renovations
- Mayor Shari Cantor will visit the MYC during the April 16 meeting
- West Hartford Community of Concern Art Contest will be due March 10 (art submissions will be for an art show; poetry is allowed as well)

8. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM
 - Motion seconded by Moh
- Work session began at 7:10 PM and concluded at 7:30 PM

Work Session: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7-7:30 PM Town Hall Room 217

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6-7 PM Town Hall Room 217

“Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.”