

Mayor's Youth Council Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 14 6:00 PM Town Hall Room 312



1. Guest Speakers

- A. Skyler Pruneau and Grace Grinnell from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI CT) presented a Student Navigator training

2. Meeting Opening

- A. Chair Moh Palanki called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:05PM. Present were council members Santiago Ballestas, Daphne Brewer, Allison Chen, Ava DellaFera, Jack Fitzgerald, Zuri Freeman, Oliver Hartmann, Anthony Hubbard, Echo Jo, Anaya Lal, Joseph Landino, Sebastian Latif, Dylan Meer, Isabelle Mulready, Alexis Nguyen, Moh Palanki, Grace Piccioli, Abby Sanderson, Alina Singh, Caeli Sullivan, Madeline Valentin, Laila Zaffou, and Catherine Zehr. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries
- B. Absent: Adam Gold and Rudra Singh

3. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the December 3 special meeting were approved

4. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - a. Conard Performing Arts presents *Disaster*
 - b. Winter sports are occurring (all schools)
 - c. Orchestra Midfest is January 28
 - d. Mock Trial moved to the second round (so did Kingswood Oxford)

- B. Hall
 - a. Students are preparing for midterms
 - b. The play *Unity* is happening
 - c. There will be a pep rally January 31
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - a. Midterms ended before winter break
 - b. The Wyvern Invitational A Cappella Festival is January 25

5. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
 - a. MYC is close to the halfway point
 - b. There was a productive officer meeting January 6
 - c. Officers should bring developed impact project ideas to the February meetings
- B. Secretary
 - a. Nothing to report
- C. Social Media
 - a. The upcoming TikTok ban on January 19 may affect MYC's ability to create an account
- D. Outreach
 - a. At the January 6 officer meeting, members expressed an interest in sitting down with the Mayor to discuss future MYC initiatives and funding sources
- E. Diversity & Cultural Appreciation
 - a. The Sweet Support bake sale scheduled for January 11 was postponed due to weather
- F. Food Insecurity
 - a. The bake sale at the Holiday Stroll on December 5 was a success
- G. Mental Health
 - a. 10 MYC members participated in Student Navigator training (Oliver, Isabelle, Sebastian, Daphne, Echo, Moh, Catherine, Grace, Alexis, and Caeli)
 - b. The subcommittee would like to possibly host a Mental Health resource fair with the help of NAMI, with a focus on postgrad mental health options

6. Old Business

- A. Kindness Project

- a. Mrs. Waxman shared concerns about low participation in the Boxing Event on December 21
 - b. She reminded members to show up to events when they commit to them
- B. Adopt a Family
 - a. The fundraiser was fairly successful
 - b. Holiday Stroll was a good outreach opportunity
 - c. MYC collected every item on the wish list, but most of the donations came from library staff and MYC members, not the community
 - d. Members should consider whether they want to run the program next year given the lack of buy-in
- C. Therapy Dogs
 - a. The library will not be hosting therapy dogs during midterms due to issues with insurance and contracts

7. New Business

- A. Meeting Date Change
 - a. Moh motioned to vote on whether to change dates to Wednesday starting in September 2025
 - b. Sebastian seconded
 - i. in favor - 23, against - 0
- B. Hearts & Smarts Trivia Challenge February 8
 - a. MYC members should sign up by January 20 to create a team
- C. Remaining Impact Projects
 - a. Members filled out a Google form to commit to future projects and update contact information for subcommittee chairs
 - i. Student Navigator Training in the schools TBD
 - ii. Mental Health Resource Fair TBD
 - iii. Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic June 20 & 21
 - iv. Food drive in March

8. Announcements

- A. Youth Leadership Academy Workshops February 26, March 5 & March 19 1:15-2:30 Noah Webster Library Meeting Room
 - a. Will participants get certificates and shirts?
 - b. The topics of the workshops could become PHACTT campaigns

- c. PHACTT applications are open and will be more competitive in 2025
- B. UN Declaration of Human Rights January 15
 - a. MYC can have a table at the event
- C. Gayle Forman Author Visit January 28
 - a. The library is collaborating with Voices of Hope CT, which organized MYC's Butterfly Project in 2022
 - b. Gayle Forman will be speaking about her middle grade novel Not Nothing, a story about a young boy who meets and builds a relationship with a Holocaust survivor who teaches him important life lessons
 - c. MYC members are invited to attend or promote the author event
- D. Guest Speakers for February 11th meeting
 - a. Awet Tsegei, East Hartford Town Council and Mikaela Shea, House Democrats Outreach Coordinator
 - i. The Political Activism subcommittee will research the special guests and create discussion questions

9. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

- i. Motion to adjourn was made by Moh, Sebastian seconded.
- ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- iii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11 6-7PM Town Hall Room 407