

Mayor's Youth Council Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 6:00 PM Town Hall Room 407



1. Guest Speakers

- A. State Representative Kate Farrar and State Senator Derek Slap answered members' questions on how the legislature works and how teens can participate in local government

2. Meeting Opening

- A. Chair Moh Palanki called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:00PM. 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, and Laila Zaffou. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries
- B. Absent: Rudra Singh and Catherine Zehr

3. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the January 14 special meeting were approved

4. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - a. February break is coming up
 - b. Safe Grad 2025 valentines will be for sale at lunch waves
 - c. A blood drive will be 2/28

- B. Hall
 - a. Voce Di Coeli will sing valentines
 - b. Pops & Jazz is starting soon
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - a. Winter break is approaching
 - b. Squash tournaments are coming up

5. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
 - a. The date of the next officer meeting will be announced
- B. Secretary
 - a. No report
- C. Social Media
 - a. No report
- D. Outreach
 - a. Youth Leadership Academy workshops are filling
- E. Diversity & Cultural Appreciation
 - a. Subcommittee members will participate in Multicultural Night at Hall on 2/12 and a Maker Lab at the Faxon branch 3/1
- F. Food Insecurity
 - a. Anthony is speaking to Sarah Isaacs at Hall about organizing a food drive
- G. Mental Health
 - a. No report

6. Old Business

- A. Gayle Forman Author Visit 1/29
 - a. This was a successful collaboration with Voices of Hope CT
 - b. There were 50 people in attendance
 - c. She did a wonderful job speaking about how her family history and current events led her to write the middle grade novel Not Nothing
- B. Hearts & Smarts Trivia 2/8
 - a. 6 Teen Advisory Board and Mayor's Youth Council members participated by judging or playing
 - b. The MYC Trivia Masters came in 12th place
 - c. Members got to speak with Mayor Shari Cantor at the event
- C. Multicultural Fair 2/12

- a. West Hartford Immigrant Teens and the MYC Diversity & Cultural Appreciation subcommittee will attend the Multicultural Fair at Hall
 - b. There will be information tables, food and entertainment
- D. Youth Leadership Academy Workshops
 - a. Registration is open on the library calendar for the following workshops
 - i. 2/26 QPR / Suicide Prevention Training
 - ii. 3/5 Narcan Training
 - iii. 3/19 Teen Gambling

7. New Business

- A. Teen Mental Health First Aid
 - a. Dates for this new 3-part series were added to the library calendar
 - i. 3/16, 4/2, 4/9

8. Announcements

- A. Connecticut Children's Medical Center Youth Advisory Board
 - a. CCMC sent a request for transgender youth volunteers to apply for a seat on their youth board
 - b. Interested students can contact Kari Karp

9. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn**
 - i. Motion to adjourn was made by Moh, Adam seconded.
 - ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
 - iii. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 4 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217