

Mayor's Youth Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:00 PM Town Hall Room 400



1. Meeting Opening

- A. Chair Moh Palanki called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:01PM. Present were council members Santiago Ballestas, Daphne Brewer, Allison Chen, Zuri Freeman, Oliver Hartmann, Anthony Hubbard, Anaya Lal, Joseph Landino, Sebastian Latif, 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: Ava Dellafera, Jack Fitzgerald, Adam Gold, Echo Jo, Dylan Meer, Rudra Singh and Catherine Zehr

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the February 11 meeting were approved

3. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - a. Disaster! The Musical is playing
 - b. States & Nationals are happening
 - c. Spring sports registration started
 - d. There are less than 100 days to graduation
 - e. The blood drive 2/28 was successful
- B. Hall
 - a. Pops & Jazz is under way
 - b. Spring sports registration started
 - c. The blood drive was successful

- d. The Chocolate Cafe fundraiser raised lots of money
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - a. Hello, Dolly! was good
 - b. Students are excited for spring sports
 - c. There is also a blood drive going on

4. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
 - a. Officer meetings and discussions have continued
 - b. Joe asked members to go around the room and say what they contributed to MYC this year
 - c. Accomplishments include: Career Fair, Holiday Stroll, Maker Lab, Multicultural Night, QPR training, Skate Night
- B. Secretary
 - a. No report
- C. Social Media
 - a. There is a new MYC TikTok account
 - i. One video has been posted
 - ii. The MYC website will be linked in the bio
- D. Outreach
 - a. The group is working on a Career / Future Prospects Fair at Hall
 - i. Mental Health will be a focus, specifically college application stress and anxiety
 - ii. Allison is coordinating with Mr. Wallace to set a date in April (the 9th or 30th)
- E. Diversity & Cultural Appreciation
 - a. The committee hosted Maker Lab 3/1 at the Faxon Library
 - i. They helped patrons create pins and magnets representing national flowers of different countries
 - 1. There were 25+ people in attendance
 - b. The committee is organizing a Language Café at the library
 - i. It will be an opportunity for people to practice their English skills
 - ii. Publicity will be sent to ESOL classes at Hall and Conard
 - c. Members will have a table at Conard's Around the World night on 3/12
- F. Food Insecurity
 - a. Anthony is working with Ms. Isaacs to plan a food drive by the end of March to early April

- b. Mrs. Waxman can reach out to the Food Pantry for guidelines and pointers on how to run a successful drive
- G. Mental Health
 - a. No report

5. Old Business

- A. Thank you letters for Senator Slap and Representative Farrar
 - a. Members signed cards that will be delivered
- B. Multicultural Fair 2/12
 - a. Over 100 people were in attendance
 - b. There was food, information tables, and performances
 - c. The MYC Diversity & Cultural Appreciation subcommittee did outreach
- C. Youth Leadership Academy Workshops 2/26
 - a. 8 people attended QPR training at Noah Webster Library

6. New Business

- A. Sustainable West Hartford inquiry
 - a. Mrs. Karp will reach out to David Sagers about possibly having an MYC table at Earth Day on 4/20
 - i. MYC could bring swag, including 2025-2026 applications, stickers, seed packs, 3D printed garden markers, etc.
 - ii. There could be an interactive activity, like rock painting (PHACTT / WeHa Blooms) or sticky notes where people can recommend sustainable activities for MYC to focus on next year
- B. MYC 2025-2026
 - a. Members made recommendations for next year's council
 - i. Group size should be reduced to 15
 - ii. Recruitment should be targeted to class announcements and emails, particularly in the middle schools
 - iii. There should be more meetings
 - 2 meetings per month, especially in the fall
 - iv. Members would like more government / Town Hall involvement with the council
 - 1. The Mayor will be invited to speak at the September or October meeting

- 2. Town officials will be invited to attend future meetings
 - 3. MYC should work to clarify how it is similar / different to other councils
- v. Officer meetings should continue
- vi. Term limits should be defined
 - 1. There is an expectation that members will serve for 2 years
 - 2. Officers serve 1 term, may be voted to serve a second term
 - 3. The maximum terms a member can serve is 4
- C. April Meeting 4/8
 - a. Mayor Cantor can only attend the 4/8 meeting briefly
 - i. She recommended 3/11 or 5/13 at 6pm as alternate dates
 - ii. MYC members can go to a Town Council meeting at 7:30
 - 1. A message will be sent to see if anyone would like to attend a Town Council meeting together
- D. MYC Graduation 5/27
 - a. The group would like to do pizza, cookies, cake and a potluck
 - b. A Google form will be sent to ask about allergies
 - c. A Kahoot! trivia will be created

7. Announcements

- A. Teen Wellness Fair 4/5 at Town Hall
 - a. There will be an art show, games, food, and other activities
 - b. MYC will not have a table, but members are encouraged to attend
- B. Elmwood Community Center
 - a. The Teen Leadership Committee has learned that the new building near Beachland Park will only have 1,000 sq. ft. for the Teen Center, but 3,000 sq. ft. for the children's area and 7,000 sq. ft. for the senior center
 - b. TLC would like to create a petition or somehow lobby for a bigger space
- C. There is a new MYC email mycweha@gmail.com

8. 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 6:58PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8 6-7PM Town Hall Room 400