

Mayor's Youth Council Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:00 PM Town Hall Room 400



1. Meeting Opening

- A. Chair Moh Palanki called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:15PM. Present were council members Allison Chen, Ava DellaFera, Jack Fitzgerald, Zuri Freeman, Adam Gold, Oliver Hartmann, Anthony Hubbard, Echo Jo, Anaya Lal, Joseph Landino, Sebastian Latif, Dylan Meer, Isabelle Mulready, Alexis Nguyen, Moh Palanki, Grace Piccioli, Abby Sanderson, Caeli Sullivan, Madeline Valentin, and Laila Zaffou. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries
- B. Absent: Santiago Ballestas, Daphne Brewer, Alina Singh, Rudra Singh, and Catherine Zehr

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the March 4 meeting were approved

3. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - a. AP exams are beginning soon
 - b. Spring sports started
 - c. There was a recent golf match and track meet
- B. Hall
 - a. Spring Break is coming up
 - b. Wrestling awards were given out
 - c. The MYC canned food drive is underway
 - d. Prom tickets are on sale
 - e. Pops & Jazz recently ended

- f. Debate Club had a win
- g. The Essentially Ellington Festival is happening in May
- h. The Hall Band is headed to New Orleans
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - a. Spring Break just happened in March
 - b. Spring training has started for several sports (baseball, lacrosse, golf, track)
 - c. There was a service learning trip to Tobati, Paraguay in March
 - d. Junior Prom was last week
 - e. Thursday there will be a senior trip to Boston for Red Sox Day

4. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
 - a. Joe has set up a tentative meeting with Mayor Cantor on April 30 for interested MYC members
 - i. This may be replaced with an invitation for the Mayor to attend the MYC-sponsored Career Fair at Hall
 - b. Officers will meet after spring break 4/21
- B. Secretary
 - a. No report
- C. Social Media
 - a. A flyer was created for Career Fair
 - b. Abby recommended creating a TikTok video to publicize the Conard vs. Hall canned food drive that ends 4/11
- D. Outreach
 - a. Allison gave an update on preparations for the Career Fair at Hall
 - i. She is collaborating with Mr. Wallace
 - ii. The date will be 4/28 or 4/29
 - iii. They are hoping for 20 local professionals to host tables at the fair; 9 are confirmed
 - 1. Speakers will include an architect, guidance counselor, news anchor, etc.
 - 2. Joe may also have a contact
 - 3. A flyer was added to the MYC Instagram page and will be posted at the library and on Neighbors & Friends in West Hartford's Facebook page
 - iv. A Conard alumnus will speak with parents about mental health as it pertains to the 1st year of college
- E. Diversity & Cultural Appreciation

- a. Members attended Conard's Around the World Night on 3/12
 - i. Conard students filled out an MYC interest form to be emailed a copy of the 2025-2026 MYC application
- F. Food Insecurity
 - a. The Conard vs. Hall canned food drive ends 4/11
 - i. Pasta and cans have been collected in the bins in the cafeteria
 - ii. A photo opp is planned before the end of the drive
 - b. There will be a spring bake sale at Hall for the West Hartford Food Pantry on 4/29 or 5/1 outside the gymnasium
- G. Mental Health
 - a. See outreach report above
- H. Political Activism
 - a. Jack is contacting local elected officials to see if they would like to have tables at the Career Fair
 - i. Allison will send a flyer to be forwarded
 - b. He also mentioned the possibility of MYC members doing a job shadow opportunity with Senator Slap or Representative Farrar
 - c. Once the date / time of the Career Fair is set, Mayor Cantor will be invited

5. Old Business

- A. Teen Wellness Fair was 4/5 at Town Hall
 - a. Highlights were BINGO, pizza, and the variety of activities
 - b. There were many mental health professionals and teen participants
- B. Youth Leadership Academy ends 4/9
 - a. In total, 50 teens attended Narcan, QPR, and Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings
 - b. YLA will occur again in the summer or next fall
- C. The 2025-2026 MYC application was reviewed
 - a. Sebastian suggested creating an infographic and posting it on a table in the cafeteria
 - b. MYC could be advertised specifically to government teachers, and generally to all teachers at a staff meeting
 - c. MYC would like to get an article in WeHa News, West Hartford Life, Kingswood Oxford News, and/or the Conard and Hall newspapers to drum up interest in applications and get the word out about the group

- d. There should be a post on West Hartford Neighbors & Friends about applications
- e. Applications can be distributed at the Career Fair at Hall and other events
- f. Mrs. Karp would like to move to a teacher recommendation model of MYC, where candidates must be vetted by a teacher, principal, or other adult figure
 - i. Instead of a letter of recommendation, teachers will be able to fill out a simplified Google form survey

6. New Business

- A. Sustainable West Hartford Commission
 - a. Mrs. Karp spoke with David Sagers about potential collaborations for 2025-2026
 - b. MYC looked at different sustainability topics (electric vehicles, greenhouse gases, public transportation, pesticides & native plants, etc.) and determined that food scrap drop-off was the most compelling for teens
 - c. MYC will wait for the Sustainable West Hartford Commission to meet and determine what projects they are currently focusing on
 - d. Next year, the sustainability committee can visit an MYC meeting or MYC members can visit theirs
 - e. MYC may be able to assist with social media posts by highlighting sustainability issues, attending community events, or generally helping amplify the Sustainable West Hartford Commission's work
- B. MYC 2025-2026
 - a. Subcommittee topics will include sustainability and America 250
 - b. The third subcommittee could be a general one for community service and activities will include:
 - i. Adopt a Family
 - ii. Kindness Project
 - iii. Fundraisers and Drives
- C. 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

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- A. Mrs. Karp announced upcoming volunteer and outreach opportunities
 - a. 4/26 Drug Take Back Day 10-1PM Town Hall
 - b. 5/1 Sparks Fly 6PM Town Hall
 - c. 6/7-6/8 Mural Painting at Celebrate West Hartford 10-6PM Town Hall
 - d. 7/19 Elevate Saturday Community Service 10-1PM TBD
 - e. 8/16 Elevate Saturday Back to School Party 4-8PM Blue Back Square
 - B. Shirts
 - a. T-Shirts were distributed to members who filled out the shirt survey

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 7:05PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 27 6-7PM Town Hall Room 407