

Mayor's Youth Council Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 6:00 PM Town Hall Room 407



1. Meeting Opening

- A. Chair Moh Palanki called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:03PM. Present were council members Santiago Ballestas, Daphne Brewer, Allison Chen, Ava DellaFera, Zuri Freeman, Adam Gold, Oliver Hartmann, Anthony Hubbard, Echo Jo, Anaya Lal, Joseph Landino, Sebastian Latif, Dylan Meer, Alexis Nguyen, Moh Palanki, Alina Singh, Caeli Sullivan, Madeline Valentin, Laila Zaffou, and Catherine Zehr. Guests: Carol Waxman & Destiny Fuller, West Hartford Libraries, Beth Kyle & Elizabeth Rousseau, Registrars of Voters
- B. Absent: Jack Fitzgerald, Isabelle Mulready, Grace Piccioli, Abby Sanderson, Rudra Singh, Gretchen Levit, Prevention Coordinator

2. Guest Speakers

- A. Registrars of Voters Elizabeth Rousseau and Beth Kyle spoke about voter registration, absentee voting, and poll working opportunities for teens
- B. Prevention Coordinator Gretchen Levitz was unable to speak at the meeting

3. Approval of Minutes

- C. Minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved

4. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - a. Senior Prom was 5/23, Junior Prom is 5/30
 - b. Senior Assassins has concluded

- c. Senior Awards Night is 5/29
 - d. A field trip is planned at Six Flags
- B. Hall
 - a. Band and orchestra concerts happened in May
 - b. Spring sports are ending
 - c. Finals are approaching
 - d. A National Honor Society field trip and other class trips are occurring
 - e. There was a cross country meet 5/27
 - f. Prom was 5/17 and Senior Week will include Senior Skip Day, Awards Night, Field Day, etc.
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - a. May highlights included a concert from Electric Violinist Mark Wood and a middle grade performance of The Little Mermaid musical
 - b. AP exams have concluded, finals are scheduled for the first week of June
 - c. Kingswood Oxford graduation was 5/23
 - d. KO participated in the Founders League championship and had wins in tennis, softball and baseball

5. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
 - a. No report
- B. Secretary
 - a. No report
- C. Social Media
 - a. No report
- D. Outreach
 - a. Allison mentioned that outreach has been underway for MYC application season
- E. Diversity & Cultural Appreciation
 - a. Mrs. Karp announced that the Diversity & Cultural Appreciation subcommittee and the library's West Hartford Immigrant Teens club will merge to become Immigrant Youth Advocates starting in the fall
 - i. This group will concentrate on service projects like Sweet Support (fundraising for refugee families in Hartford County) and a Language Cafe / Homework Help for teen English Language Learners
 - ii. Interviews will be held at the Noah Webster Library 6/3
- F. Food Insecurity

- a. Anthony stated that 109 cans were collected in the Conard vs. Hall food drive this April
 - b. Items were delivered to the West Hartford Food Pantry
- G. Mental Health
 - a. The Career Fair scheduled for 4/30 was postponed
 - i. There were 20 scheduled guests and a speaker lined up, and the Mayor was also invited
 - ii. In the future, MYC will give the schools 3 months notice ahead of similar programs
 - b. QPR trainings hosted by the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District were scheduled at Conard and Hall on 5/19 and 5/21
 - i. The Conard event was canceled (2 registrants) and the Hall event was held with 5 participants
 - ii. May is not an ideal time for programs, and MYC will try to avoid this month next year
- H. Political Activism
 - a. No report

6. Old Business

- A. Recruitment 2025-2026
 - a. Eight 2nd year members must notify Mrs. Karp of their intent to serve on the 2025-2026 council by 6/23
 - b. Three 3rd year members must re-apply for a seat on the council by 6/23
 - c. New members must apply by 5/31
 - i. As of 5/27 there are 5 applicants, but more are expected to apply throughout the week
 - ii. The current chairs have expressed an interest in assisting with June interviews

7. New Business

- A. End of Year Reflection
 - a. Members filled out a graphic organizer and discussed their thoughts on the 2024-2025 MYC season
 - b. Some suggestions for next year include:
 - i. Getting school administration approval 3 months before any planned MYC initiative

- ii. Having enough lead time on posters and publicity
- iii. Avoiding May projects and programs
- iv. Utilizing school announcements, Community Slides, and Mr. Wallace's newsletter to publicize events

8. Announcements

- A. Mrs. Karp announced upcoming volunteer and outreach opportunities
 - a. 6/3 5-7:30PM Immigrant Youth Advocates interviews Noah Webster Library
 - b. 6/14 11-2PM Juneteenth craft volunteers Blue Back Square
 - c. 6/16 6-7PM Teen Summer Reading Kickoff Party Blue Back Square
- B. Moh and Joe presented Mrs. Karp with a card and gifts for serving as the MYC Staff Liaison
- C. Mrs. Karp announced that a gavel will be purchased in honor of the 2024-2025 MYC cohort

9. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

- i. Motion to adjourn was made by Moh, Alexis seconded.
- ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- iii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 17 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217