

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday July 27, 2015 6:00PM

Location: North Reading Town Hall, Room 10

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Guests/ Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Alex May	Amy Luckiewicz, Youth Services Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice Chair	Tracy Helms	Kathy O'Connell, Middle School Principal
Samantha Miller, Substitute Secretary	Karen Buscemi	
Leslie Schultz	Sandy Garniss	
Judy Hall		
Kathy Dardeno		
Roseann Ventimiglia		

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

1. **Guest Speaker** Kathy O'Connell was welcomed by Peter Majane and asked to do a Q&A.

AMY Luckiewicz asked: Are there any trends that you see in the Middle School?

KATHY O'Connell: Currently she is seeing more issues with the girls than the boys. She sees a mean spirited behavior on social media that is not out-right against the rules, but is done in an effort to hurt other people's feelings. She sees that the girls tend to mature by 8th grade and into high school and this behavior tends to taper off. The issues with the boys are more physical, although by physical she sees some pushing, not fights. She does not see an alcohol problem at the middle school or other substance abuse problems. She says it's out there, but she does not see the signs that it is happening with the middle school kids.

AMY: The survey done with the 7th grade kids shows that 4 out of the approximately 200 kids in 7th grade have tried anything, and that was alcohol.

KATHY: She sees social/emotional problems increasing in anxiety.

AMY: Do you have any programs similar to Wonder coming up in the next year?

KATHY: This past year the middle school did a program with "care days" which were once a month with an extended home room. The "care days" focused on kindness, bullying and other social/emotional concerns. The middle school plans to continue this next year. Amy was invited to join in on the planning sessions for that.

FRANK Ferraro: Can you tell us more about your relationship with Youth Services and Amy Luckiewicz?

KATHY: The kids know who she is, she is welcomes and well known among the students and the teachers in the middle school. She was invited, by students to chaperone the Washington, DC trip. I would love for her to have an office in the Middle School.

AMY: Is there a place for a Middle School Mentor Program?

KATHY: I promised the town I would seek out positive relationship opportunities for the MS/HS kids. I would welcome a MS mentor program.

In closing Kathy O'Connell asked that if anyone ever comes to anyone and has a question about the Middle School, to please reach out to her and e-mail her. She is a regular person and she welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions.

FRANK: Can you tell us about your cell phone policy?

KATHY: We are pretty strict at the MS, but we will have to look into the policy when the MS is sharing a space with the HS as the HS policy is different from the MS policy.

Before leaving Kathy O'Connell invited us all to the ribbon cutting for the school on September 30th.

2. **Minutes review** – Kathy Dardeno asked to note that in the May Minutes the word "tie" be changed to "time" in new business. Both May and June Minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. **Financial Report** – We are doing well overall. We will lose some money on the P-Town trip; however with donations most of the YS programs will be a wash for the summer.

4. **Participation report** – It was nice to see the High school special education program participating. There were some sold out programs, and some no-shows on the free programs, sometimes due to kids at home on their computers instead of coming to the programs.
5. **Social Services** – There was an uptick in socialization calls mostly for a lot of kids not having friends or spending too much time on the computer. There was one family from outside North Reading (Malden) that called for a referral for a teen pregnancy as they had heard good things about the NR Youth services program; Amy referred them to the Youth Services program in Malden.
6. **CIT Update** – Volunteers are needed for National Night Out (NNO). There was money coming from the state (\$1000) for NNO, but at the last minute the Governor has pulled that money. Chief Murphy has offered to subsidize with money from his safety grant. At this time we are in good shape, partly because Amy over prepared last year knowing that we may be short this year.

NOTE: The Marijuana fines document was the most looked at item at the table last year, Amy will make more copies available this year.

Dr. Falzone (August 5th): The presentation is being first marketed to stakeholders, then later will be offered to parents and the community. It has now been opened up to bordering towns and the presentation is filling up.

Learn to Cope – Amy is working with Mary Prenney to get the “Learn to Cope” program for 30 year old + opiate addicts to present to the coalition.

7. **Old Business** – Amy’s review. Amy had her review with the TA and while the review was all positive she was a little surprised by the TA’s comment “I have decided to take no action” yet on your merit increase. This applies to many non-union employees. She was also not given a cost of living increase due to the fact that she does not currently have a contract. This should be rectified this month and be retroactive.
8. **New business** – Amy’s Philippines trip has been approved. She will be going in the 1st 2 weeks of October. She has coverage except for mentors and MS youth group, she is looking for coverage. Peter volunteered to help. Amy will E-mail Peter with the coverage needed.

Next meetings:

10/26: May be Michael Gilberto

11/23: Michael Downs; Please note his absence at the June Meeting was due to him being in the hospital

8/24: still open for speakers, Amy will ask some Youth group kids to talk about some of the youth services trips

Next Meeting: August 24th

Meeting Adjourned: 7:05

Documents/Handouts	
Financial Report	Social Services Report
Participation Report	National Night Out Flyer

August 24, 2015
Minutes approved on date

Peter A. Majane
Peter Majane, Committee Chair