

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, August 28, 2017 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Samantha Miller	Judy Hall	Cathy O'Connell, NRMS Principal
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz	Sandy Garniss	
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Christy Damphousse	Patty Harrington	
Amy DiChiara	Kathy Dardeno		

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

- Guest Speaker:** North Reading Middle School Principal Cathy O'Connell spoke to the committee about an array of different topics. She spoke highly of Amy Luckiewicz's efforts to improve staff comradery in the Middle School. It was noted previously that moral was down and a team building exercise helped boost it. Cathy mentioned how the demographics at the Middle School is changing and she feels the need to become more acquainted with outside resources beyond North Reading. This year was the first year DCF came in to register a child for school. She also mentioned how low self-esteem and exclusion seems to be the number one stressor, especially for girls, at the Middle School. There are social and emotional issues, even in academics. There are now 3, full-time psychologists at the Middle School with more visibility throughout the day. It was outlined how Parent Workshops are most important and necessary for greater education all around. Social Media is used inappropriately almost daily amongst students and is not being properly monitored at home. Parent education for Social Media is needed. It was noted that there are Apps out there that can assist parents in controlling their child's media time. Cathy discussed their new Chromebook Initiative rolling out this year for 7th graders. The question was asked why bullying that takes place outside of school becomes a school issue and must be addressed by the school, and it was outlined that there are new bullying laws in effect that outline even off-property incidents must be addressed by the school as they can affect the student's learning process with carry-over from the outside event. Cathy mentioned their Green Ticket program which rewards students with prizes when they are caught doing something above and beyond what is expected of them. Cathy suggested we speak with Assistant Principal Mike Maloney about their ALICE program, of which he is the lead organizer.
- Review of Previous Minutes:** July 24, 2017 minutes were reviewed and accepted with the understanding that outlined errors would be corrected.
- Financial Report:** Amy Luckiewicz noted all was normal. She noted some rafting money still coming in and they still had some payables for rafting. Transportation for large field trips still the highest cost right now, but they use town vehicles whenever possible. They didn't do the May "Battle of the Bands" so there was no uptick in revenue for revolving, but it was noted they are still doing fine.
- Participation Report:** Amy Luckiewicz noted this has been the busiest summer since she's been Director. 67 kids have used Youth Services programs since July 1st this year, plus 33 incoming 6th graders participated in the Round Table held at Middle School. It's meant to be an addition to the Walkabout and focuses on social/emotional topics. They had 5 topics picked based on what they thought gives kids most stress: Gym Class 101, practicing locks, After School activities, how to manage/balance homework, and understanding the 6-day rotating schedule. She noted Game Days are the most consistent with enrollment. Online registrations with Signup Genius has worked well and she will continue to use that. They sold out of Borda Borg and Middle School Rafting. Pictures from the water rafting trip was shared. High school WW Rafting had 7 students, the Middle School had 17 students. Looking ahead, they have preregistered: EarlyAct: 6 enrolled, Middle School Youth Group: 2 enrolled, and Mentors: 6 enrolled.
- Social Services Report:** Amy Luckiewicz noted it was a slow summer but lots of work done on DFC grant.
- CIT Update: National Night Out:** All volunteers were thanked for their services that night and it was estimated that 600 attended. About 35 people went through their "In Plain Sight" demo. It was mentioned that demonstrations from local clubs was missed this year. Need more of the dance/karate/singing & acting acts next year. **Volunteer Breakfast:** All went great. Full house with town officials in attendance. Superintendent Jon Bernard made pitch for "Screenagers", a CIT presentation coming in October. The work that CIT does was also mentioned. **DFC Grant:** Leah's last day was in early August. They will be hiring a new Coordinator. Marci Bailey has agreed to step in as volunteer Chair of the Coalition. Summer intern Joe will be hired on contract basis. He is attending San Diego National Coalition Academy with Amy the week of Sept 18th.

7. **Old Business – Education Update:** Amy Luckiewicz noted all on track. She got 2 more A's on summer courses and has 6 classes left. She also re-submitted to the DFC people to get some funds to cover classes as they apply to the grant. She noted that on the phone they were optimistic but she's been waiting 3 weeks for the official word in writing. If approved, about \$12k can be used for tuition that the town will be reimbursed for. **Contract Status:** No change.
8. **New Business:** Date has been set for Reality Fair at High School for Juniors: November 9th. Volunteers needed! Amy Luckiewicz noted she has been asked to help Andover with their drug event which includes a Battle of the Bands, but she doesn't want it to conflict with North Reading's. It was noted NR "Battle of the Bands" will now be "plugged" as the "unplugged" pitch did not pan out well. Amy has also been asked to help Lynnfield with getting their coalition started and "In Plain Sight" events in September. She'll be training volunteers in the next 2 weeks. She noted she will be on vacation September 11-15th.

Next meeting: Monday, September 25, 2017 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Participation Report	Financial Report
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from July Meeting
White Water Rafting/Moxie Falls Hike Team Challenge	Battle of the Bands

September 25, 2017

Minutes Approved on Date

Peter Majane

Peter Majane, Committee Chair