

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, August 24, 2020 - 6pm

Location: Zoom – Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Deborah Mahoney	Christy Damphousse	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Danielle Masterson, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz	Samantha Miller	Select Board Member Liane Gonzalez
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Jason Slattery	Frank Ferraro	
Amy DiChiara		Patty Harrington	

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

- 1. Review of Previous Minutes:** July 27, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- 2. Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford stated there were no changes to the finances.
- 3. Social Services Report:**

- YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined that the fall school year would consist of 4 cohorts with the majority of students on a hybrid schedule. Some students will attend all in-person, some students will be all remote, and others will be on a hybrid schedule consisting of 3-day in-person/2-day remote learning – alternating weeks for in-person learning on Wednesdays. It was also noted that the start and end times for school have changed due to busing schedule adjustments.
- Jen mentioned that YS and North Reading Parks and Recreation department are discussing potential remote learning assistance during the school year. The program would be fee-based, not a typical standard for YS. It was outlined this would be beneficial for working parents who just can't be home to assist students with classwork. The Parks and Recreation program would be aimed at offering supervision to kids while they work remotely. Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto was initially involved in the discussions but has removed himself until he is granted approval from the SB to attend, due to the potential conflict of his own children being eligible to participate. It was mentioned that a lot of families statewide have opted to go all-remote for learning and are forming pods supervised by an adult (often a retired teacher) with other families for additional learning opportunities.
- Countless hours have been spent by many meeting to discuss scheduling for cohorts, space for social distancing, timing for busses, breakdown of cohorts, etc. There have been a lot of conversations between teachers, parents, and school staff.
- It was mentioned a lot of towns have had large delays in the delivery of laptops to students due to industry manufacturing delays in light of COVID-19, though not in North Reading.
- Superintendent Daly said he may be able to allow YS Director Jennifer Ford into the building for groups that meet regularly. The Youth Action Team is one group that will continue to meet.
- Jen stated that Dave Doucette who attended the YS Committee meeting in July is a technical wizard. Jen is hopeful that with Dave's technical support that YS will offer a virtual Reality Fair so students can continue to learn about the importance of money, budgeting, and living within your means. It was suggested that perhaps volunteers could record a short video of what they do on a daily basis to incorporate into the virtual experience.
- The question was asked whether there have been any discussions regarding the affect the coronavirus pandemic has had on kid's mental health and it was outlined there have definitely been signs of increased stress and emotions but we won't know the full detriment until later.

4. Participation Report:

- YS Director Jennifer Ford stated that while she has been in contact with many youth and families during the pandemic, in-person and remote participation has continued to be very low. Jen

explained that many families relocated for the summer as well as kids are burnt out from virtual learning and being online all the time.

5. **Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

6. **New Business:** There was no new business to discuss.

Next meeting: Mon. Sept. 28, 2020 - 6 p.m. **Location:** TBD **Meeting adjourned at** 6:43 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from July Meeting

September 28, 2020
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair