

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, December 21, 2020 / 6:00 pm **Location:** Zoom - Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Deborah Mahoney	Frank Ferraro	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Danielle Masterson, Co-Chair	Jason Slattery	Samantha Miller	
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Jodi Sponzo	Christy Damphousse	
Amy DiChiara	Yan Huang		
Leslie Schultz	Patty Harrington		

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

1. Review of Previous Minutes: November 23, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: YS Director Jennifer Ford stated that there has been no change in finances since last month. There were no expenditures this past month.

3. Participation Report: YS Director Jennifer Ford said she had a lot of activity this month considering the circumstances. YS interacted with 220 youth since July 1.

- a. Mentoring. There is one new mentor and three new elementary school mentees.
- b. Pen pal group is now 16 pairs. Two new members joined last month.
- c. Youth Action team has one new member
- d. 5th Grade Girls group is still going strong.
- e. One new program this month was FaceTime with Santa (thanks to the father of YS Director Jennifer Ford). Three sessions were originally scheduled and a 4th as added due to demand. In total Santa FaceTimed with 109 youth, most elementary age, all new faces to YS. YS Director Jennifer Ford was able to obtain specific information from parents regarding their child(ren) so Santa could have individualized conversations with them. The program was a huge success.
- f. YS is partnering with Flint Memorial Library to support the HS International Club who will hold Spanish and French lessons for youth. To date 25 youth have registered.

4. Social Services Report:

- a. YS Director Jennifer Ford continues to have a lot of conversations with individuals and those in other departments regarding mental health, the COVID impact on mental health and socialization.
- b. YS Director Jennifer Ford had a conversation with a local mom who is struggling with her child as they have trouble "fitting" in and being accepted.
- c. YS Director Jennifer Ford is now a part of the Boston Post Cane group.
- d. YS Director Jennifer Ford was elected Coalition chair.
- e. NRPS Assistant Superintendent Sean Killeen reached out to YS Director Jennifer Ford and would like to have discussions with her regarding social justice. Mr. Killeen is exploring a social justice subcommittee at the schools.
- f. YS Director Jennifer Ford continues to work with the Board of Health on contact tracing.

5. Appointment of YSC Officers: Chair Peter Majane thanked Danielle Masterson for her work as Vice Chair and all members for their assistance throughout the past year. A special thank you was directed to Karen Buscemi for all her support over the years. She will be missed. Chair Peter Majane thanked YS Director Jennifer Ford for continuing to do an incredible job for the youth of our community.

- a. Peter Majane was nominated to continue as Chair and Danielle Masterson as Vice Chair for 2021. Members unanimously agreed that Peter Majane will continue as Chair and Danielle Masterson as Vice Chair for 2021.
- b. Chair Peter Majane nominated Deborah Mahoney as Secretary to replace Karen Buscemi. Members unanimously agreed on this appointment for 2021.
- c. New members Jodi Sponzo and Yan Huang were welcomed to the committee.

6. Old Business: A brief discussion was held regarding school and those with youth in the schools felt it is going well considering the circumstances and the current hybrid model seems to make sense. Families with younger children are struggling more with the virtual platform. Youth with special needs are in person five days. However some youth with IEPs are struggling some in the hybrid model because they perform better with face to face interactions.

7. New Business:

- a. YS Director Jennifer Ford is working with the Youth Action Team to create a virtual club platform to be shared after break.
- b. YS Director Jennifer Ford continues to work on the virtual reality fair. It will be a user friendly, interactive document/presentation for students to look at on their own. It is not mandatory. YS Director Jennifer Ford has shared it with some students and young adults and they all have positive reviews. The document will be shared with committee members and then with school administration before it is rolled out to students.

Next meeting: January 25, 2021 **Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

Documents/Handouts	
December 2020 Meeting Agenda	November 2020 Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair