

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 5

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Judy Hall	Anthony Loprete
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Kathy Dardeno	Amy Luckiewicz, Youth Services Director
Karen Buscemi, Secretary		Kate Manupelli, Board of Selectmen
Leslie Shultz		Rita Mullin, CIT member
Patricia Harrington		
Samantha Miller		
Sandy Garniss		
Amy Dichiera		
Christy Dampousse		

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

1. **Guest: A.J. Loprete/N.R. High School Principal:** Peter Majane introduced and welcomed North Reading High School Principal Anthony (AJ) Loprete to the Committee. Mr. Loprete spoke about an upcoming high school presentation with Chris Herren, former NBA Player/Addiction Recovery Advocate. Amy Luckiewicz mentioned how the C.I.T. program was looking into bringing Chris Herren in for the parents to view, however funds were not available at this time. A.J. also spoke about the John Morello presentation ("DIRT") coming back on April 3 and how the Morello and Herren presentations are part of his plan to create a supportive environment at the high school to prevent and reduce drug and alcohol use. Amy mentioned the PRIDE Survey that would be going out to students and how its anonymous results helps to evaluate safety/bullying and drug education programs and is used for federal reporting and grant writing. Frank Ferraro asked Mr. Loprete what trends have been seen during his 7 years as principal and Mr. Loprete stated emotional issues seem to be on the rise. There has been an increase in emotional instability and mental health issues and it was mentioned this could lead to higher drug/alcohol use for coping. Mr. Loprete mentioned the high school's Bridge Program which helps students catch up on assignments during prolonged absences. It was mentioned the heavy workload of students may contribute to their stress and Mr. Loprete mentioned how the high school has a high AP class enrollment which is elective, but also telling of how the student body strives to be at the top. Amy mentioned she had a great meeting with the high school guidance department and the communication has since increased and been terrific. There was mention of how medications are handled at the high school and whether disclosure is necessary if a child is taking medications at home. Mr. Loprete outlined that no student should be bringing their medications in and medicating themselves during the school day and they are not required to disclose what medications they are taking at home. Amy mentioned most kids avoid taking medications during the school day to avoid being labeled. Kate Manupelli asked what more was needed from the Youth Services Committee in order to assist him and he outlined the Pride Survey will be telling and reviewed and action will go from there. Mr. Loprete outlined the high school kids genuinely enjoy their peers and see sees a lot of support between them on a daily basis. He outlined they are looking for strong academics. The question was asked how the results of the survey will be handled to assist in keeping kids who are stressed out from using drugs to cope. Mr. Loprete outlined the support system at the high school, which consists of the Guidance Department, nurse, teachers, student assist team, and the vice principal and he expressed his confidence in their effectiveness. Amy asked whether he felt the Reality Fair was of service to students and Mr. Loprete felt it was definitely worth hosting again but stressed how only one grade should attend. Rita Mullin mentioned past "DARE" programs and how there was a reduction in drug use/bullying, etc. with it and Mr. Loprete outlined that their current health program at the high school, which students are required to take, cover all that information thoroughly.

2. **Review of Previous Minutes:** January 2017 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

3. **Financial Report:** Amy Luckiewicz distributed the financial report and outlined an increase in enrollment. There were no questions.

4. **Participation Report:** Amy Luckiewicz outlined her recent education grades, which were both A's, but outlined she will have to hold off now on classes due to slow down of funds.

5. **Social Services Report:** Amy Luckiewicz discussed her recent Washington D.C. Trip to visit Congressman Seth Moulton and how it did not go as planned as one child go very sick and was hospitalized so Amy spent the

- majority of the trip in the hospital with them. She mentioned that the kids who went were the most prepared to speak.
6. **Grant Update:** Amy Luckiewicz mentioned she's working on a parenting class, "Guiding Good Choices" with the grant money. She also announced she is no longer pursuing the STOP Grant. There were no questions.
 7. **Battle of the Bands:** Amy Luckiewicz discussed upcoming 10th Anniversary of Battle of the Bands and how they were looking for bands to compete. Also, looking for volunteers. No date set but will occur in May.
 8. **Old Business - Merit/COLA:** Amy Luckiewicz received merit but stated COLA is still pending.
 9. **New Business:** Discussion opened about Pride Survey and how students may not be completely honest due to fear of not being truly anonymous. It was stated that during a recent Climate Survey there were students collecting surveys and teachers collecting surveys so it was felt they were not completely anonymous due to possible recognition of handwriting. Amy Luckiewicz outlined how the Pride survey would be going in individual folders and would be passed in this way so there could be no sightings of surveys by either students or teachers. Rita Mullen mentioned how there will soon be an open Board of Selectman seat and expressed her wishes for a diverse candidate who would be supportive of the C.I.T. and Youth Services Committee. It was expressed that all members of the Youth Services Committee attend the March 13th Selectman meeting. It was suggested that the next invited guest be Leah Maihos so she can meet the Youth Services Committee members. It was suggested the committee reach out to the Middle School Principal to discuss possibly getting surveys out in the lower grades. It was suggested the committee draft a letter to the Selectman to vote "No" on medical marijuana dispensary in North Reading.

Next meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Participation Report	North Reading Night Off Flyer

Minutes Approved on Date

March 27, 2017

Peter Majane, Committee Chair

Peter Majane