

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Jason Slattery	Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Christy Dampousse	Leslie Shultz	Patty Harrington	Detective Paul Lucci, NRPD
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Danielle Masterson		
Amy DiChiara	Samantha Miller		
Sandy Garniss			

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

1. **Review of Previous Minutes:** January 28, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. **Guest Speaker:** North Reading Police Department's Detective Paul Lucci was the Youth Services Committee invited guest for February's meeting. He was invited to chat about his current work as the town's School Resource Officer. Det. Lucci outlined the Elementary Schools are pretty self-sufficient as the smaller age groups constitute smaller problems, such as verbal nastiness and threats. The higher grades get a little more involved, incorporating technology and the language gets nastier and there are more online issues to deal with. Det. Lucci stated he feels the 5th Grade Girls Club is a great idea given that particular age group and development. He discussed his online safety class which he presents regularly at the schools and talked about its content, such as cyberbullying, the sending/posting of inappropriate pictures, and how one or all of these things can involve the police. He said bullying can get really nasty at the Middle School. He discussed how the individual schools handle most of the complaints, but the police will handle issues that have escalated. Vaping has become a big issue in the Middle and High School. There have been no real alcohol issues reported. Det. Lucci mentioned that he and Drug Grant Coordinator Amy Luckiewicz executed a vaping presentation with school teachers for awareness. It was mentioned that the old school marijuana is no longer popular and the new favorite is THC oil which is highly concentrated and available for purchase online and in stores and comes in a large array of foods so it's hard to recognize as marijuana. It was noted that online purchases are easiest for teens since a lot of websites don't check IDs and stores aren't conveniently located. It was mentioned that a lot of the marijuana sales take place outside of school, though there have been reports of it occurring in school. Social media was also noted as a place used to "advertise" sales. Vape pens are getting disguised with marijuana use. Det. Lucci outlined that the high school brings more adult problems, such as vaping, marijuana use, and online bullying, but it's still seen at the middle school level. Det. Lucci said he visits all the schools regularly but the middle school kids are definitely more receptive to his presence than the high schoolers. It was outlined that complaints first go to the principals and then if it's not solved there it goes to the police where Det. Lucci will offer parents his advice. There aren't many complaints that come directly into the police department when it involves school kids. It was asked whether Det. Lucci directly intervenes when he witnesses a child acting inappropriately (such as vaping) and he outlined that he directs them to the school principal, even if it's an illegal activity. He may seize the illegal material and would then write a report at the Police Department, but all complaints go directly to the principals. Det. Lucci discussed new laws put into place with the Criminal Justice Reform Bill which outlines the new minimum age of delinquency (raised from age 7 to age 12) and new guidelines for misdemeanor charges which essentially allows kids to make the same mistakes over and over without legal consequences. Det. Lucci said he is working with CIT to create new programs for kids to curb behavior this new law doesn't provide. He and CIT (Community Impact Team) are trying to work with the schools to perhaps create some sort of after-school punishment, like a detention. It was noted that alcohol abuse does seem to be prevalent in the high school and a discussion of alcohol abuse, house parties, parent responsibility, and the difficulties of dealing with the aftermath was discussed. The lack of policy enforcement regarding alcohol abuse and vaping was discussed.
3. **Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined she was reimbursed for some snacks for YS events but that was about it for expenses. All holding steady. It was mentioned that she and Danielle Masterson met to discuss future grants.
4. **Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford outlined there are a lot of grandparents raising grandkids and she gets calls related to that. She also said anxiety is a huge issue and she spoke about the 2 recent suicides in the community.
5. **Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford outlined the Dungeons & Dragons Club is going very well and is up to 12 participants. The 5th Grade Girls Group has 8 participants and has met twice so far and is also going well. Jen and

Kim Smith-Brown from North Reading Public School's Digital Learning Department have run their vocational series twice which helps introduce students to options other than traditional college choices. It was noted that FY18 had 171 participants and FY19 already has 175.

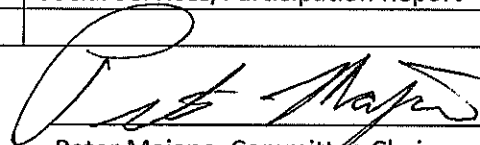
6. **Old Business:** The Reality Fair is March 21, 2019 and Jen outlined she was currently busy planning it and hoped all YSC members would participate if possible. The staggering of NRYSC member term dates was revisited and it was decided that Peter Majane would reach out to Barbara Stats about a process for staggering term renewal dates so service dates don't all expire in the same year.
7. **New Business:** Jennifer Ford and Danielle Masterson met and discussed YS social media and it was decided that Danielle would serve as an additional administrator of the YS social media pages. Danielle outlined all the new items she already added to several platforms and members discussed adding even more platforms that have recently become popular. A handout of the NRYSC meeting dates was referred to and all were asked to put on their personal calendars.

Next meeting: Monday, March 25, 2019 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from January Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report
NRYSC Meeting Schedule for the Year	

March 25, 2019
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair