

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, May 20, 2019 6pm

Location: North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Jason Slattery	Amy DiChiara	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz		Sean Killeen, Principal, L.D. Batchelder School
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Samantha Miller		Christine Molle, Principal, E. E. Little School
Christy Damphousse	Patty Harrington		Glen McKay, Principal, J.D. Hood School
Danielle Masterson			

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

- Guests:** Peter Majane welcomed the 3 Elementary School Principals, Sean Killeen, Chris Molle, and Glen McKay. Opening topic was social media and how it's still the predominant issue, especially in Grade 5. There was mention of a "challenge" which was going around in the middle of the night which required those who received it to FaceTime contacts, otherwise face "consequences". According to the principals, this activity is happening outside of school, but still sometimes carries over into school. It was mentioned how parent education is most beneficial, directly effecting the kids, such as limiting gaming time. Cyberbullying did not seem to be a big issue at the elementary level and appears to come mostly out of the gaming community. It was outlined that teachers handle the lower level bullying and then it's brought to the school counselors should it escalate. The 5th Grade Bash, sponsored by the elementary PTO, was mentioned as it serves as a great way for kids to meet other kids from other schools to break the ice for entering 6th grade, however in recent years it's become more like a Jr. Prom, complete with limos and gowns and essentially "over the top" items. It was also outlined that even though it's meant to break the ice, it doesn't seem to break up the clicks and the kids don't really mingle as intended. Project Adventure was mentioned as a possible tool to get kids to mingle and work together instead of a dance and it was outlined that this was something that would have to be brought to the PTO as the school does not have enough time in their yearly schedule to accommodate such an event. It was suggested that PTO members be invited as guests to a future YS meeting to discuss. Mentoring was praised as a great tool to be utilized by the elementary kids and the principals were encouraged to spread the word. "Bot in a Box" was mentioned as a popular YS activity and Early Act was also mentioned as something worthy of elementary students. It was suggested that information regarding YS events and activities be distributed during Parent/Teacher conferences and to all the school psychologists.
- Review of Previous Minutes:** April 22, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined there were really no changes. She owes herself some money for snacks. She outlined that pursuing donations and grants will continue to be a priority.
- Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed her plan for a NRYS Volunteer Program. Her proposal was shared and it was suggested that she reach out to PTO's for volunteers and concerns were raised over who these volunteers would be, would they be Coried, should they be left alone with kids, who would supervise the volunteers, etc. It was noted background checks would be done on all volunteers and it would allow for enhanced programming as well as the potential of increasing programming. All volunteers would be thoroughly trained. This raised concerns about how volunteers might deal with kids who may have issues and whether volunteers would have enough training in this department. The conversation circled back to the need for more than 1 YS Director and how the town administrators reacted to the pitch for an assistant. It was then mentioned that if there are enough volunteers, that may decrease the need and appeal of a paid assistant. It was suggested that some members of the YSC reach out to the town to chat about a paid assistant which would increase programming and grow services.
- Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford shared a story of the 5th Grade Girls Group as there were 4 new members who joined. She said the older members expressed expectations of the group and then the new members shared some stories of their own experiences and it was a really nice and welcoming exchange.

6. **Old Business:** The committee finalized the new renewal terms of 1, 2, or 3 years.

7. **New Business:** There was no new business.

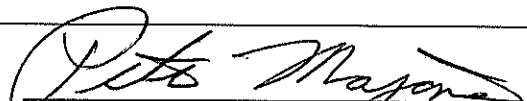
Next meeting: Monday, June 24, 2019 - 6 p.m., NR Town Hall, Rm. 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from April Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report
NRYS Volunteer Program Proposal	

June 24, 2019

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair