

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, November 22, 2021 / 5:00 pm **Location:** Zoom -Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Frank Ferraro	Yan Huang	Beatriz Vautin, potential member
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair		Patty Harrington	
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary		Amy DiChiara	
Jodi Sponzo			
Leslie Schultz			

YS Director, Jennifer Ford was absent. Chair Peter Majane was her proxy for the meeting.

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Chair Majane welcomed Beatriz Vautin who is interested in becoming a committee member. She shared her background. Chair Majane thanked her for sharing and invited her to join us for the remainder of the meeting.

1. Review of July Minutes: October 25, 2021 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: No change in finances.

3. Participation Report: 5th Grade Girls Group discussed stress and conflict management. EarlyAct Club made cards for Veterans' Day. FREEFORM continues to meet virtually but struggles with scheduling activities/events due to lack of space/transportation. Mentoring is going great and already HS mentors are inquiring about the winter session. MS Youth Group has had 2 visits from potential committee member Jacob Mullin-Bernstein. Participants really enjoyed his visits and appear to be very comfortable with him. Recently, MS Youth Group had some great organic conversations about being by-standers vs. up-standers, stress and phobias (coping techniques) and the importance of self-advocacy. Youth Action Team (YAT) is posting social issues awareness IG blurbs and collaborating with the high school guidance office to better support students with stress management and substance use disorder.

4. Social Services Report: YS Director Jen Ford continues to have a lot of conversations regarding mental health, specifically anxiety as well as the extreme pressure of the college application process. One parent was concerned with her 5th grade daughter being bullied by peers. There was a conversation with HS students' guardian that youth identifies LGBTQIA+ is being targeted. YS Director Jen Ford had several conversations regarding feelings about Thanksgiving and the meaning behind it. Several youth discussed curriculums with YS Director Jen Ford. There is a wide range of feelings, fewer students feel that NR is progressive while more expressed frustration with biased curriculums. Conversations were all youth initiated and required no prompting.

5. Old Business: Follow up to Superintendent Patrick Daly's visit last month. 10/26/21 Update: per Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) there's an extension of Mask Requirement through 1/15/22. There is a possible consideration of lifting the mask mandate prior to 1/15/22 with 80% vaccination rate. As of 10/26/21: Ages 12-15 68% fully vaccinated (in NR) and Ages 16-19 77% fully vaccinated (in NR). As of 11/2/21, per CDC 5-11 year olds can be vaccinated.

Follow up to the Age Friendly Summit – Dr. Caitlyn Coyle was unable to attend as planned but overall the presentation by Rich Wallner went well. The audience seemed interested in some of the suggestions

made by UMass Boston Institute of Gerontology and the ad-hoc committee. This issue still requires a lot of discussion but stakeholders seem willing to discuss.

Guiding Good Choices had 4 graduates. All participants raved about the program and highly recommended it to others. One parent said, "I wish I knew about this 10 years ago for my older son". The team is discussing options of making it even more inclusive for todays' families.

Self-Care Week was last week, November 15-19.

6. New Business: A committee member asked if there was any indication of when we can meet in person? Chair Peter Majane will follow up with the Town and get back to us. After the meeting Chair Peter Majane was notified that committees can meet in person and requested that our December meeting be at Town Hall. Vice-Chair Jason Slattery said there is another Guiding Good Choices in January. There was a question about the December meeting date. The committee decided to move the meeting to December 20 instead of December 27.

Next meeting: December 20, 2021 **Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.**

Documents/Handouts	
October 2021 Minutes	

December 20, 2021
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair