

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, September 24, 2018 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Christy Dampousse	Judy Hall	Jason Slattery
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Sandy Garniss	Kathy Dardeno	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Samantha Miller		
Leslie Shultz	Patty Harrington		
Amy DiChiara			

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

- Review of Previous Minutes:** June 25, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report:** Finances remain steady. September was very similar to August. Nothing major to report.
- Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed how during National Night Out held on August 7, 2018 this year she "polled" the community to see what types of issues community members are facing on a regular basis. She had an empty vase with 5 colored stones representing "Abuse/Violence", "Bullying", "Discrimination", "Mental Health", and "Substance Abuse" and asked people who passed by to choose the colored stone that represented something they are dealing with in their family and to drop it in the vase.
- Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed what did and didn't work over the summer as far as programming was concerned. She found that board games were a huge hit among all age groups. She wound up extending that program through the fall due to its popularity. She outlined her consideration to create a sport-themed game night. July and August saw 83 participants in programming. September included discussions about socialization (primarily with parents). Jennifer noted that the Positivity Bracelets are not selling as much as she'd like and acknowledged that there have not been many appropriate opportunities to sell them. They were handed out at the Apple Festival and National Night Out, and remain for sale online and are always present in the Youth Services Office. It was noted that the high school does not appear to be as receptive to having Youth Services present. Jennifer is working on making other connections through teachers and advisors in order to reach the youth. She is looking into utilizing Power Block and is looking to chat with high school kids about what types of programming and activities high schoolers would appreciate. Jennifer has met with the Guidance departments to get acquainted with the new clubs and to help introduce Youth Services to them. It was noted how the CIT program was created with the intent of bringing all Youth Groups together and it hasn't happened yet. It was suggested that Jon Bernard (a member of CIT) be approached in regards to further cooperation. It was suggested that the Youth Services Committee write a note to outline the importance of cooperation from the high school and beyond to work with Youth Services for the greater good of the community and town youth. It was also noted that the Youth Services Department is making strides in connecting with the youth despite the hurdles and it was decided a note would not be necessary at this time. Concern was raised that the high school clubs associated with Youth Services may slowly disappear without constant promotion and growth. An inquiry was made whether the Youth Services Activities were making all the Daily Newsletters from the schools and it was noted that some make it in and some don't.
- Old Business:** Jennifer Ford's 30, 60, 90 Day Goals were reviewed and there were no questions or comments. The discussion about adding the word "Family" to the current "Youth Services" title was revisited, along with the desire to bring all the youth-serving departments together to work toward common goals. Jennifer Ford outlined she has spoken to all the other departments and it was suggested that perhaps a group newsletter could go out that lists all the youth programs jointly. The addition of the word "Family" in the "Youth Services" title is still under review and it was suggested that a better approach may be to change the message of Youth Services rather than its title. The concern was that the word "Family" would broaden the reach too far. It was also noted that families would most likely be the ones reaching out to Youth Services anyway, with or without a name change. It was suggested a monthly "letter to the editor" go out in the newspaper and the Patch to outline what Youth Services offers.
- New Business:** The Reality Fair was confirmed for November 8, 2018 through Vice Principal Michael Downs but unfortunately due to his departure it had to be rescheduled for March to allow the new Vice Principal to review the program and get up to speed with the process. March 7 and the 21 was pitched. There will be a guest speaker for the October 22 Youth Services Meeting; Debbie Sharp, Educational Consultant/ Special Education Advocate for Who's Learning Now, LLC. And the guest speaker for the November 26 Youth Services Meeting

with be Drug Free Communities Grant Director for North Reading, Amy Luckiewicz. It was noted that vaping still continues to be a problem at the middle and high school. Kids are observing kids vaping on the premises.

Next meeting: Monday, October 22, 2018 - 6:00pm, Room 5

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from June Meeting
Financial Report	Participation Report
Community Colored Stone Poll Flyer	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director 30, 60, 90-Day Update

October 22 2018

Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair