

Youth Commission Minutes September 16, 2010

Attending: June David-Fors, Lori Mott, Sylvia Pabreza, Sandy Scott, Gretchen Bean and Joan Clementi.
Youth Liaisons: Suhayla Islam, Ellen Yang, Holly Bissett

A motion to open the meeting was made by Sandy Scott and seconded by Gretchen Bean.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held Thursday November 18th at 7:00 pm.

Director's Report:

- Metro West Community Health Care Foundation Updates: The Basic Health Needs Grant will be completed at the end of November. This means that the additional 12 hours of clinical services will no longer continue. There was also a discussion about possibly writing a joint grant with the Senior Center.
- Officers - Lori Mott nominated Sandy Scott as Co-Chair with Becca Haberman and Joan Clementi seconded. Sylvia Pabreza will continue as recording secretary.
- Recruitment - Members will get the word out about the 1 vacancy on the Youth Commission.

ARHS Student Update: Freshmen are adjusting to high school. More than 60 new students are at ARHS. They seem to be fitting in, but it was mentioned that there may be students sitting alone at lunch. There was an orientation for new students held around the time of Freshman Orientation.

Class sizes are larger than they have been in the past. Spaces that have not been used as classrooms in the past are now being used. There are waiting lists for some classes.

Stress is a big issue at school. Handling stress is something that is expected if you opt to take difficult classes. There may not be as many supports in place as they could be for handling stress.

Freshmen in honors classes seem to be especially affected by stress. It might be helpful to look for ways to target this group for stress reduction.

The SADD group will be addressing the issue of safe sex. Students feel that the health teachers skirt the Sex Education unit they teach at school.

New 'no cell phone' policy during school hours is in place in the high school.

It was suggested that issues brought up in today's discussion be communicated to the Health Advisory Board at school as well as the SADD group and the Health Teachers at school.

Other Business

At the middle school new advisory groups are in place to address social competencies and anti-bullying initiatives.

Northborough Stands Together Against Bullying will be held on Saturday October 16 to raise funds for the bullying awareness campaign that will be implemented K-8 in Northborough. There will be a road race, a bar-be-cue and other events to help raise awareness. Details can be found on the Melican Middle School web page <http://www.nsboro.k12.ma.us/melican/bullying.htm>

Statistics from the last quarter (April 2010 to June 2010) were presented.

Lori Mott moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Joan Clementi seconded.