

Hastings Youth Council Minutes
James V. Harmon Community Center Lower Level
Wednesday, December 04, 2019, 7:00pm

Staff Present: Jill Iturbe, JoAnne Reed-Stokes

Staff Absent: Vernal Ford

Board Members Present: Alanna Campus, Carrick Forbes, Damaris Lois Lang, Amy Nichols, Elizabeth Galletta, Karen Sokol, Lori Walsh

Board Members Absent: Liz Gabay

I. Old Business

a.Youth Advocate Report/Drug-Free Coalition/Food Pantry (J.R., V.F)

Hastings Food Pantry- 16 turkeys donated by Foodtown and the Girl Scouts were distributed to families for Thanksgiving. Foodtown has created pre-made bags for purchase to be donated to the food pantry. This has helped to keep shelves stocked. On average the pantry has 6 visits per day from families in need. Also, Amazon Prime wishlist is also regularly supplying pantry.

Hastings WAY Drug Free Coalition-

- The coalition is sponsoring the installment of vape detectors in all bathrooms at the community center. The Coalition is sending their coordinator, Linda Fosina, to be represented on a panel for the upcoming PTSA sponsored speaker, ex- NBA Player Chris Herren on his recovery from addiction.

Youth Advocate-

- The community center has begun a more thorough recycling program that will include food scraping. Members of the conservation commission will be coming to train the kids on the items that can be composted next week. There was also some discussion about nitrous oxide use by teens at community center. All of those involved were asked to speak with Youth Services director and informed about dangers and consequences for use. Joann also contacted the school about meeting with the parents of the student who purchased the substance.

School Prevention Programs•JoAnn will meet with Jesse Merchant next week to discuss prevention programs for middle/high school students.

Youth Employment Service (J.I.)The YES Office has filled 18 jobs since the last meeting, despite several holidays and 1/2 days in November. These jobs included: Tutoring, after-school child care, driving to after-school activities, yardwork, snow removal (!), moving, organizing office files for an author, inputting poetry into computer for a book, and childcare for kids during an evening PTA meeting. Lists were sent to several people for Babysitters, Yardwork and snow removal, and students happily report getting calls. Interestingly, the Middle School Principal refers her parents to the YES office to obtain tutors. I've been contacted by camps regarding counselor and lifeguard jobs asking me to publicize, as they like our students. The annual Summer Job Fair will be Tuesday, January 14.

b.Annual Fundraising Mailing/Other Fundraising Ideas/Project for Monies from Anonymous Donor (KS)Annual Appeal

- Appeal materials have been sent to printer, proofs have been approved. Mailing is expected to go out on Thursday Dec. 12th.

c.Harlem Rockets/Fundraiser/Social Event with Hastings Police (A.N.) Amy met with Chief Dosin and Lou Adipietro, and they were interested in the Rockets event--unfortunately the Rockets weren't available on the 2 dates they preferred, so she is trying to find out if another date works. They also spoke about a few other upcoming events for HS students and police--a talent show Feb 7th, and possibly a kickball tournament later in the spring. The group discussed about re-

questing a Saturday afternoon date (like around 4:00pm) for the Rockets to come and would consider paying for custodial overtime if necessary. The group said that it was worth trying to see if we could still do this in March-April.

d.Youth Council Newsletter (K.S.)-Newsletter for December has been completed and test emails were sent out to representatives on the Board prior to sending out to community. Karen asked members to send in changes so that newsletter can be sent out to community to pre-empt the USPS annual appeal mailing.

e.Collaboration with School District on Communication and Conflict Resolution Program at Middle School and High School (K.S., J.R.)-JoAnn is still waiting to hear from Melissa Syzmani about curriculum ideas on conflict resolution.

f.Social Media Campaign (C.F.)-Karen asked Carrick if she could provide the link for the instagram account to be posted on the newsletter. Also, it was requested to post information as to the past events like Bingo Battle (Karen has some photos to post), Tutoring, Relay for Life, Safe Rides, upcoming Reading Partners, etc.

g.Safe Rides (K.S.)-Safe Rides cards have been ordered and expected to arrive on Wednesday Dec. 11th. Once printed cards are delivered, Hastings KIDS will disseminate them at lunch table at school and also possibly disseminate at winter Farmer's Market.

h.Hastings KIDS updates (E.G.)

- **Relay for Life- (E.G., L.W.)** scheduled for June 6th, 2020-/Bracelet fundraiser-Youth Council provided the funds to buy the bracelets which cost \$3.00 a piece and will be sold for \$5.00. The amount that was provided up front will be reimbursed to the Council and the remaining will be donated to Relay for Life.
- **Bingo Battle-Partnership with Seniors (K.S., A.C.)**-Alanna and Karen reported that the Bingo event went well and that all enjoyed lunch, desserts, bingo and prizes. The only changes would be to try next time to forcibly integrate the middle school students with the seniors. The group discussed doing this event annually in the fall on early dismissal days for parent-teacher conferences.
- **Reading Partners at Hillside Elementary** Elizabeth had reserved the Library for the Reading Partners which is scheduled for February, 2019.
- **Grace Community Table** is seeking student volunteers for this Saturday, 12/07/19.

i.First Generation College Prep (D.L, C.K.)

- **Free Tutoring Program**- Chris is still offering his services for tutoring.
- **Creation of curriculum/Workshops**-Chris and Damaris met to discuss how to create a sustaining curriculum for first generation college students and will be meeting again 12/06. There was some discussion about prioritizing the

j.Help-a-Child (A.C., L.G)- Alanna said that they still need a list of new children in need and also need to recruit new donors. She said that she would work on an application for donors that describes the program and lists their obligations and responsibilities for each year.

k.Mercy College/Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)-Lori reported that the position was posted this past week at Mercy College. There was some group discussion as to the timing of hiring an intern since the Board of Education must approve any hires at the school which takes time to vet. Lori said that she put a deadline time on the application for Dec. 31st. Waiting to hear if there is any interest for the spring semester.