

**Hastings Youth Council Meeting
James V. Harmon Community Center, Lower Level
Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018**

Minutes

Present: Jeff Edelman, Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Jill Iturbe, Karen Sokol

Absent: Anna Pearson, Jeanne Neumann, JoAnn Reed, Lori Walsh, Donny Waterous

I. Old Business

a. Hastings K.I.D.S Update: (Student Reps T.S., G.A., R.S., S.S., A.W., E.P., C.C, J.A.)

-Elizabeth and Karen met with students TS, AW, EP

-TS suggested some sort of Dance as a Council sponsored student event. KS offered the possibility of a Dance-a-Thon (like is done at Penn State) to raise money for cancer. In light of the recent passing of Mr. Foster, it was suggested that money could be raised for cancer in his memory. AW is on HS student government and noted that students are wanting to do an activity, discussed partnering with the student government on this endeavor. TS will attend student government meeting Thursday and bring this idea up at that meeting with AW.

-TS spoke with Mr. Merchant regarding organizing Hastings Athletic Teams for the Rivertowns Relay for Life in May/June and noted there was interest. Elizabeth will also speak with Laura Light who is very involved with Hastings Booster Club.

-Winter Reading Partners: students noted there is interest for March; Karen indicated RS may be able to be the lead on this in March. Elizabeth will reserve Hillside Library and contact Hillside principal and Hastings superintendent.

-Volunteer New York presentation to 9th graders has not yet happened. Karen will follow up with Ms. Shaw for a presentation to the 9th graders.

-Volunteer New York presentation to peer leaders has not yet happened. Karen will follow up with Mr. Conwiser for a 30-minute presentation to the peer leaders.

b. Youth Employment Service(YES) (J.I.)

—Jill reported that 19 jobs were filled in December including babysitting and tutoring and that there is a Job Fair 1/9/18 during the lunch period in the YES office.

c. Mercy College-Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)-update

-Kimberly Jimenez-Verde's PALS internship review was positive from Hillside and adequate but not outstanding from the Hastings Youth Advocate staff.

-Ashley Martinez will start this month and Lori indicated there are two others for this semester who will be participating in this internship program where Mercy College students volunteer for a college internship at Hillside during the lunch period and the Community Center after school.

e. College Visits Organization (E.G., K.S.)

-Elizabeth reached out to Ms. Edwards (HHS Guidance) to follow-up about college visits and Who's Going Board and will follow up with her again.

f. Breakfast Run and Grace Community Table (A.P.)

-Breakfast Run Sunday, Dec. 10 was successful; approximately 60 people were served breakfast. Volunteers participated from the Grace Church community as well as the Hastings community.

-Dates of next BR: not yet scheduled

-Dates of GCT: 2/3/18, 3/3/18

g. What's Cooking?(L.G.), Help-a-Child (L.G.) and Project SHARE (J.N.)

-December What's Cooking theme was Asian and all enjoyed it; next date is 1/9/18

-Help-a-Child was discussed with Liz noting some students have graduated and that there have been challenges with receiving current information for gift ideas; there was considerable discussion regarding how to improve this program and we will continue this discussion.

h. Youth Advocate Report/Drug-Free Coalition/Food Pantry (J.R. email report)

-Food Pantry: John Costello Basketball Tournament Food Drive provided several bags of groceries; as well as Hillside donated groceries in December to the Food Pantry

-Fundraising Update from Community Mailing: community appeal sent out late December and there have been 100 responses so far.

-WAY Coalition Update: WAY(Working Alliance for Youth) is the name for the drug-free coalition that includes community members and village employees. This group continues to meet and has surveyed students and presented the results to the community and school administrations and has also held focus groups with parents and students. Results will be presented to community in a Town-Hall style meeting. Also, website for the coalition is almost completed

-HS and FMS student committee update for extracurricular recreational activities: no update

II. New Business

a. Open Seat on Youth Council

- Mary MacDonald resigned from the Council so there is an open seat. Elizabeth will reach out to a community member who has expressed interest.

b. March Madness

-Jeff will coordinate a March Madness event again this year during a Friday in March at the Community Center.

c. Election of Youth Council Chair or Co-Chairs for 2018

-An electronic vote to re-elect Karen and Elizabeth as Co-Chairs of the Hastings Youth Council for 2018 took place on 1/17/18. Karen and Elizabeth were re-elected as Co-Chairs of the Hastings Youth Council for 2018.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Galletta