

**Tuesday, November 22,  
2022 Mayor's Youth  
Council Meeting 6:00 PM  
Town Hall Room 217**



### **1. Meeting Opening**

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- a. Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:00PM. Present were Council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Tess Chapman, Kushal Gauli, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Oliver Hartmann, Kris Rimal, Ailani Roach, Zaara Shahzad, Priya Shinde, Priya Sinha, and Caitlin Striff-Cave. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Head of Children's Department.

Absent: Jack Gold, Kikoh Mordukai, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli, and Jeffry Rosborg.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

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- a. Amendments
- i. On Page 5, change room 407 to room 217.
  - ii. No other corrections were made and the minutes stand approved.

### **3. School Reports**

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- a. Conard - Kris shared that November 22 was a fundraiser for DECA at Conard.
- b. Hall - Priya Shinde, Zaara, and Caitlin shared that a food drive for SewaDiwali took place. Both the Veterans Day concert and the Broadway concerts were held recently, and Mrs. Ambrose's (an assistant principal) last day working at Hall was November 22.
- c. Kingswood Oxford - Tess shared that a Choreographer Showcase took place last week. Broadway dancers performed different dances, and there was a show put on for the whole school.

- d. New England Jewish Academy - Tziyona shared that school just ended for Thanksgiving break.

#### **4. Chair & Subcommittee Reports**

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- a. Chair
  - i. Zaara has recently been working with Kris on the WHIT subcommittee.
- b. Secretary
  - i. Sarah did not share anything with the council.
- c. Social Media
  - i. Daphne did not share anything with the council.
- d. Outreach / Recruitment
  - i. Ailani did not share anything with the council.
- e. Butterfly Project
  - i. Tziyona spoke about the planning completed by the Butterfly Project subcommittee since the last MYC meeting.
  - ii. Tziyona shared that she and Jack have decided to co-chair the Butterfly Project subcommittee together.
  - iii. The subcommittee met 2 weeks ago, and is planning a second meeting to continue planning their project.
  - iv. The Butterfly Project must be completed by January 29.
  - v. The subcommittee will contact the National Art Honors Society and Ceramic Programs at schools in town to find people who can make ceramic butterflies or fire them in a kiln. Several Mayor's Youth Council members have contacts with members of National Art Honor Society and ceramics teachers. They can contact these programs to ask about creating ceramic butterflies.
  - vi. The goal is to gather 100 ceramic butterflies, 25 from each school represented in the Mayor's Youth Council.
  - vii. A 3D printer may be used to create a butterfly clay cutter. Both MYC family members and Bristow Middle School have the resources necessary to 3D print the design.
  - viii. On January 29, the butterflies will be displayed at a Holocaust Remembrance Day event at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford. MYC members are invited to speak at the event on the topic of home, belonging, and refugees.

- f. Environmental Video Contest
  - i. Reese gave an update on the Environmental Video Contest.
  - ii. Reese requested the contact information from the Sierra Club in order to clarify about the project's due date and other details.
  - iv. Next steps include connecting with high school science teachers to post flyers and find judges for the contest. Reese will ask science teachers at Conard, and MYC members at other high schools were asked to contact their science teachers.
  - iii. A subcommittee meeting will be coordinated before December 13.
  
- g. The Kindness Project
  - i. Caitlin gave an update on the Kindness Project food drive.
  - ii. There has been confusion over donation collection at Hall due to the concurrent Diwali food drive. Caitlin will speak on the morning announcement tomorrow to clarify which fundraiser is which.
  - iii. NEJA started to collect donation items late last week. Tziyona will try to relocate collection boxes to a local synagogue to access donations from the general community as well. KO will start collection after Thanksgiving break, since the school limits fundraisers to two per month.
  - iv. MYC members at each school have received advertisement materials, and the current main goal is getting donation boxes and posters put out.
  - v. Members requested an electronic version of the fundraiser poster. Mrs. Waxman will send the posters to the MYC as soon as she has access to them.
  - vi. Caitlin talked to the nurses office at Hall, and received a list of items needed that are given to students. The list included menstrual products, toothbrushes, and toothpaste in small containers. The Kindness Project may portion out a share of donations for the nurses offices at each high school. MYC members are encouraged to talk to the nurses offices at their high school to gather a list of items needed.
  - vii. MYC members will ask their teachers to consider offering extra credit for donating items.
  - viii. On December 10, donation items will be sorted at the Noah Webster Library. Pizza and dessert will be provided, and subcommittee members should notify Caitlin if they cannot be there. The library has received a large supply of donations, so all members are asked to attend if possible.
  - ix. Currently, the drive ends December 16, but this deadline may be extended if necessary.

- h. Walking Tour of West Hartford
  - i. Priya Sinha spoke on the planning completed for the Walking Tour.
  - ii. Dr. Wilson met with the subcommittee on November 20.
  - iii. At the meeting, members were updated on news from last year and laid out plans for the walking tour.
  - iv. On November 30, the subcommittee will walk through the tour locations and create the script for the tour.
  - v. Members interested in volunteering to help with the tour should contact Dr. Wilson or Priya Sinha.
  
- i. West Hartford Immigrant Teens
  - i. Kris and Zaara spoke about upcoming events that WHIT will be hosting.
  - ii. WHIT met last Wednesday and discussed holding an art and chat event.
  - iii. The subcommittee plans to have a group of teens attend Nordfelt international night to teach kids about different countries. Other elementary schools are also having international nights, and WHIT would be happy to attend those as well if MYC members send them application information.
  - iv. WHIT clubs have started at high schools in town.
  - v. As a long term project, the subcommittee plans on traveling to middle schools and speaking to newly immigrated kids there to give them an orientation before high school.
  - vi. The subcommittee will be hosting holiday events and aims to celebrate more holidays that aren't necessarily American.
  - vii. Meetings are held every other week on Wednesday or Friday at the Faxon Library. There are usually snacks, and the meetings will start using a hybrid format to allow teens to attend online as well. Any MYC members interested are encouraged to attend WHIT meetings.
  - viii. Advertisements for WHIT in additional schools will be increased.

## **5. Old Business**

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- a. QPR Gatekeeper (suicide prevention) & Narcan Administration Training
  - i. Mrs. Karp spoke about an upcoming event open for MYC members to attend.
  - ii. On Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30, there will be a presentation on Suicide Prevention and Narcan Administration Training at the Noah Webster Library.
  - iii. The presenter is from the social services department and has worked in Youth Services in East Hartford.

- iv. There are 40 spots available, and MYC members are welcome to attend.
- b. Social Media
- i. Daphne asked members for instagram post content ideas.
  - ii. Although the member biographies idea from last year wasn't completed, biographies will be created for this year's council. Daphne will send out a form to MYC members asking for information about themselves.
  - iii. Many posts have been made for WHIT, and the goal is to post more content about other projects. The Kindness Project could put a picture of MYC members standing with a donation box. Caitlin will plan to take a photo of the donation box at Hall with a few MYC members.
  - iv. Priya Shinde brought up the idea of creating a montage with funny blurbs about each meeting. This was inspired by the Boston MYC.
  - v. Other post ideas included having subcommittee takeovers, Instagram highlight stories, and short story readings from teen submissions.
  - vi. MYC members are encouraged to create post drafts and send them to Daphne. She will ensure that the content is appropriate and post it on the MYC instagram.

## **6. New Business**

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- a. Communication
- i. Zaara motioned to create a group chat using text or whatsapp to send messages, Caitlin seconded.
  - ii. Mrs. Karp won't be able to join the group chat using her Google Voice phone number. Instead, Mrs. Karp will send information to Zaara, and Zaara will relay the information to the rest of the council in the groupchat .
  - iii. Motion to vote determining whether MYC members use whatsapp instead of iMessage for a group chat format was made by Zaara.  
Vote: For: 6, Against: 7
  - iv. The motion fails, and iMessage will be used as the format for a MYC group chat.
  - iii. Sarah spoke about using Discord. Reese volunteered to help set up controls and organize the platform.
  - iv. Sarah spoke about using Google Classroom as a communication method. Google classroom was used last year, and will be used to post agendas, meeting minutes, and subcommittee meeting notes.
  - v. The same Google Classroom from last year is being used, and all members were instructed to join using the code if they hadn't already.
- b. Subcommittee Weeks
- i. Mrs.Karp shared the idea of holding subcommittee weeks, which would

consist of a designated week about two weeks after official MYC meetings during which all subcommittees are asked to meet. The schedule is inspired by the Boston MYC, which has already implemented this system.

- ii. It was decided that subcommittee weeks will be included in the MYC schedule for 2023-2024.
- iii. Mrs. Karp spoke on decisions regarding future MYC meeting dates. The only dates already set were for November, December and January, leaving the rest of the year unplanned.
- iv. Mrs. Karp sent out a survey earlier this week, and people voted for meeting dates in February, March, April, and May.
- v. The most popular dates for each month were as follows: February 7, March 7, April 4, and a tie between May 16 and May 23. May 23 is the date of the Hall Spring Concert, so the May meeting date would not be that day.
- vi. However, less than half of MYC members filled out the survey, so Mrs. Karp will resend it to give additional members a chance to vote on future meeting dates.
- vii. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year need to be settled by November 30.
- viii. Mrs. Karp spoke on meeting dates for the 2023-2024 year. Currently, the dates for the fall are set as September 12, October 24, November 14, December 12, and January 16.

- c. Human Rights Commission Declaration of Human Rights
  - i. Last year, the MYC recorded videos reading articles from the Declaration of Human Rights.
  - ii. The same group presented the MYC with another opportunity involving the Declaration of Human Rights, but this time with an in-person event.
  - iii. MYC members are invited to read an article from the Declaration of Human Rights at an event on January 12 at Town Hall.
  - iv. Members that speak a language other than English are given the opportunity to translate an article into that language to be read at the event.
  - v. A link will be sent out to members to volunteer to read.

## **7. Announcements**

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- a. Daphne shared that she had just emailed MYC members a Google form to submit information for the biography posts.
- b. Tziyona requested that the council refrain from holding activities late Friday night or Saturday for religious purposes.
- c. Mrs. Karp shared that the library has a new Tech Lab Coordinator named Sam Ferri. He will be holding a workshop called "A Beginner's Guide to Podcasting at Studio 20." Many subcommittees have expressed interest in recording projects, so this class may be beneficial and allow MYC members to

gather information on recording. MYC members are welcome to sign up for the workshop, but there is a limited number of spaces.

- d. Priya shared that the WHIT subcommittee could collaborate with Equity Squad.

## **8. Adjournment**

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- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Zaara, Kris seconded.
- b. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217**