

Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
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 6:03PM. Present were Council members Daphne Brewer, Tess Chapman, Kushal Gauli, Jack Gold, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Evan Piccioli, Kris Rimal, Ailani Roach, Jeffry Rosborg, Zaara Shahzad, Priya Shinde. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Head of Children's Department.

Absent: Reese Berigan, Moh Palanki, Priya Sinha, and Caitlin Striff-Cave

## 2. Approval of Minutes

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A. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved.

## 3. School Reports

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A. Conard: Kushal shared that Frozen the musical is premiering at Conard soon. Jeff shared that the school is holding Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser events February 3 through March 24. The Conard boys swim team also beat the Farmington team recently. The Environmental Club is holding a pet supply drive until March 7, and the Student Council is hosting a canned food drive in a few weeks. Kris shared that the Conard boys hockey team is still ranked first in the state, and the track team had a number of qualifications for States and Nationals. Ailani shared that Conard's acapella group BeS#arp competed in a competition recently.

B. Hall: Kikoh shared that Equity Squad had their third training day today for Hall and Conard. They discussed implementing circles of equality in the classroom, and will be going on a trip to DC soon. Zaara shared that there was a power outage, which resulted in the Answer Show being rescheduled. Student Faculty also started up again. Oliver shared that Student Government is hosting a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and will be watching *Top Gun 2*. Conard and Hall also recently released results for music auditions, and Solisti and Camerata have a performance called Chocolate Café coming up.

C. Kingswood Oxford: Jack shared that KO is hosting a blood drive. KO had their Cum Laude induction today, and Tess was one of the students inducted. Hockey Night is also coming up, which is an event involving an alumni hockey game and free skate.

D. New England Jewish Academy: Tziyona shared that the boys basketball team won a game last night. NEJA also had a speaker from Israel visit, and there are more basketball games coming up for the boys and girls teams.

#### 4. Chair & Subcommittee Reports

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##### A. Chair

i. Zaara did not share anything with the council

##### B. Secretary

i. Sarah did not share anything with the council.

##### C. Social Media

i. Daphne shared that the first 6 MYC biographies have been posted on Instagram. Six more will be posted next week, and any MYC members who have not already filled out the form should do so now.

##### D. Outreach / Recruitment

i. Ailani did not share anything with the council.

##### E. Butterfly Project

i. Jack shared that they attended the Voices of Hope meeting on January 29 and spoke about the Butterfly Project and its impact. Subcommittee members were able to meet state representatives at the event.

ii. Tziyona shared that although the butterflies are completed, the project is not finished. Currently, they are attempting to have a Holocaust survivor meet and talk with all of the clubs that participated in the project.

iii. The painted butterflies will be installed at WHPL outside the teen room permanently.

F. Environmental Video Contest

- i. Evan shared that the contest has a new sponsor called HeatSmart.
- ii. MYC members should send out flyers and explain the contest to anyone who may be interested.
- iii. Mrs. Karp shared that the contest is listed at the top of the MYC website. She also mentioned that the contest could be advertised on the town listserv.
- iv. The Sierra Club is holding a meeting on February 12th in Westmoor park. This is a West Hartford Climate & Environment Happenings event, and the Sierra Club will promote the video contest at this meeting.
- v. Mrs. Karp shared a script for a commercial with MYC members. MYC read the script together.
- vi. MYC members will record the commercial and aim to have it finished by the end of February.
- vii. Ailani can write a message advertising the contest to will be sent out in a press release.
- viii. MYC could approach West Hartford Life or WeHa.com and ask them to write an article.
- ix. Subcommittee members will advertise the contest to environmental clubs at the high schools in West Hartford.

G. The Kindness Project

- i. Caitlin did not share anything with the council.

H. Walking Tour of West Hartford

- i. Sarah shared that the Walking Tour subcommittee met a few weeks ago to discuss recruiting teen volunteers.
- ii. The subcommittee will meet tomorrow to go over scripts/talking points for the tour.
- iii. Mrs. Karp shared that an Access Grant focused on slavery education in West Hartford was recently created.
- iv. The grant involves student-led research, outreach to the schools, and a project for the public.

I. West Hartford Immigrant Teens

- i. Zaara shared that WHiT held an Art and Chat meeting this past weekend.
- ii. About 21 people showed up, and the event was successful.

- iii. The WHiT subcommittee will meet next week to discuss what they can do to make future Art & Chat events more cohesive.
- iv. WHiT was recently interviewed by Ronni Newton, and an article was published on WeHa.com.
- v. WHiT will be attending Norfeldt International Night on Thursday February 9 from 5:30-7:30 PM. The event will include cultural clothing, food, and a culture walk. MYC members were encouraged to attend.
- vi. Many elementary schools hold an international night, and the poster board that has already been created can be reused for these events.

## 5. Old Business

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- A. West Hartford Immigrant Teen's Art & Chat program supplies
  - i. WHiT will be hosting more Art & Chat events in the future. Art supplies can be recycled for the next event, but the supplies bought for the first meeting were paid for by the teen library supply budget.
  - ii. It would be ideal to pay for these materials with the MYC budget.
  - iii. Zaara motioned that MYC approve \$139.11 for art supplies including pens, pencils, charcoal, and paper for the Art & Chat programs on February 4 and March 4, Evan seconded.  
Vote: For: 12, Against: 0
  - iv. This motion passes and \$139.11 will be approved to pay for WHiT Art & Chat supplies.
  - v. With this spending, MYC now has \$192.99 to spend until June 30, 2023.
- B. Member Bios Update
  - i. Daphne shared that the first 6 member bios were posted on the MYC instagram.
- C. Narcan / Suicide Prevention Workshop Review
  - i. Tziyona shared that the workshop was a great experience, and all participants were given Narcan.
  - ii. Participants learned about overdoses and how to use Narcan. One of the speakers had a Master of Public Health, and instructed everyone on how to correctly administer Narcan. Another speaker talked about suicide prevention.
  - iii. Many people shared their own stories or perspectives, and it was a very impactful experience.

iv. MYC members were informed that any person can go to the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District or Amplify and receive Narcan anonymously.

## 6. New Business

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### A. House Bill 6203

- i. Mrs. Karp shared that House Bill 6203 is a bill to provide the state department of education with equipment and training to implement a structured Holocaust education program. Currently, the state law only says that the Holocaust must be covered in school with no specifics on how this should be done.
- ii. At the Holocaust Remembrance Day Celebration on January 29, papers were left on tables asking everyone to take action and email state legislatures about Holocaust and genocide education.
- iii. MYC members will draft a letter to state legislatures, writing about their participation in the butterfly project and Holocaust Remembrance Day. The letter will encourage legislatures to fund Holocaust education
- iv. MYC members will create a Google Doc, write notes on it, and turn that into a letter within the next few weeks.

### B. WHiT Board of Education Recommendations

- i. WHiT will make recommendations to the Board of Education on how to address the needs of immigrant students in the West Hartford Public Schools.
- ii. MYC members should aim to do so this year, since Caitlin is an ambassador to the BOE.
- iii. The WHiT subcommittee will pick a BOE meeting date to have a MYC member speak at, and come up with 4 to 5 recommendations for what the school board can do to better welcome immigrant students in the schools.

### C. Town Events / Possible Collaborations for 2023-2024: Juneteenth, Lunar New Year, Pride

- i. Mrs. Waxman shared that she participated in a Lunar New Year celebration this year that took place in the former West Elm building. There is a similar celebration on February 18th for Black History Month in the same space. Asian Cultural Club at Hall also celebrated Lunar New Year, along with a few clubs at Conard that are holding a celebration

tomorrow. This is a possible collaboration/impact project for MYC next year.

ii. Mrs. Waxman is on the committee for planning West Hartford's Juneteenth celebration. She will tell her fellow committee members that some MYC members will be able to volunteer and help with the celebration.

iii. West Hartford Pride is another committee Mrs. Waxman is a part of. She will be meeting with the town manager and West Hartford Pride soon, and will ask if MYC would be able to help with Pride events in the future. Involvement in Pride celebrations would be a possible impact project/collaboration for the MYC in the future.

iv. Mrs. Karp shared that the Vision Zero Initiative, a road safety project in West Hartford, is a possible impact project for MYC next year.

## 7. Announcements

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### A. WHiT Art and Chat Program - March 4, 2023 10AM Faxon

i. Zaara shared that there will be a second WHiT Art & Chat event on March 4 at Faxon library. This event will feature a different artist, and MYC members were invited to attend.

ii. Daphne will make an Instagram post about this upcoming event.

### B. Help Ukraine Donation Collection West Hartford Libraries - Ends February 11

i. Mrs. Waxman shared that she was approached a while ago with a request for donations for Ukraine.

ii. Requested donations include warm clothing for men on the frontlines, tourniquets, power bars, and food. All items must be brand new.

iii. The library is collecting donations until February 11th. Many community members have already donated items, and MYC members were encouraged to notify anyone who may be interested about the donation collection.

### C. West Hartford Climate & Environment Happenings 2/12

i. Mrs. Karp shared that West Hartford Climate & Environment Happenings is holding an event on Sunday.

ii. Any interested MYC members are encouraged to attend the event.

#### D. Annual Library Goals

- i. Mrs. Waxman shared that she and Mrs. Karp have to complete annual goals for the library, and she is responsible for creating goals for the tween age group.
- ii. One idea is to create a second Mayor's Youth Council for tweens/teens grades 6-8. This would be a lower commitment, introductory council.

#### E. Holocaust Survivor Podcast

- i. Jeffrey shared that the mental health podcast created last year could be used as a template in creating a podcast out of the Butterfly Project's interview with a Holocaust survivor.

#### F. Student Council Convention

- i. Jeffrey shared that the Connecticut Association of Student Council is holding a spring convention.
- ii. The convention will take place around March 24 at Woodland Regional High School.
- iii. Student Council members from various schools come together to hear presentations, hold fun events, and participate in workshops.
- iv. There are a number of workshop presentations on topics such as how to start a club, how to pass bills of legislature, and how to run a successful fundraiser.
- v. Jeffrey will contact the organization and ask whether they need workshop presenters. He feels MYC members would be qualified to present.
- vi. Presenters would need to attend 2 days of training before March 24.
- vii. Participants in the convention receive a diploma at the end as well.
- viii. Jeffrey will send this information to the MYC group chat.

#### 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 7:02 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217