

**Commission for Children and Youth
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 25, 2019, 5:30 pm
Weston Town Hall Meeting Room**

*Future 2018-19 regular meetings, Town Hall Meeting Room, 5:30pm
4/29, 5/20, 6/17*

Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney, Chair
Denise Harvey, Secretary
Bridget Angus
Dan Frank (arrived during the meeting)
Michele Tivey
Knox Watson (arrived during the meeting)

Commissioners and Others Absent

Michelle Albright
Maria Rowbotham
Emma Spaulding, 9th Grade Representative

Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director
Pattie Falber, WIS Principal
Allison Lisbon, Social Services Director
Charlene Monn, Program Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Kolodney called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2019 and February 19, 2019 Regular Meetings

Motion: *Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 22, 2019.*
Motion by Commissioner Kolodney, second by Commissioner Tivey: Vote 4-0
(Angus, Harvey, Kolodney, Tivey).

Motion: *Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 19, 2019.*
Motion by Commissioner Kolodney, second by Commissioner Angus: Vote 2-0-2
(For: Angus, Kolodney; Abstain: Harvey, Tivey).

3. Review Roles/Responsibilities

See attachment with preliminary draft. The Commission decided to keep the chart as an ongoing document of roles and responsibilities.

Commissioner Kolodney raised the idea of programming focusing on children learning how to manage relationships without hurting others as well as other social skills. Commissioner Tivey offered to work on this with Commissioner Kolodney.

Ms. Cleary also discussed the issue of kids managing friendships. She will look for some programs designed for middle school students and speak with the guidance department at WMS about what they are currently doing and where they would like some help.

Ms. Monn referenced a program on role playing on YouTube and a program on how to act that had previously been offered through WOW.

Commissioner Tivey suggested having a buddy program, which was discussed in further detail by the group. Ms. Cleary mentioned the Best Buddy Program, which has to be school-based. Commissioner Kolodney will follow up on that Program.

Ms. Monn raised having a mindfulness program, but the timing would need to be discussed.

Ms. Falber suggested having a program for students who want to audition for the school theatre productions in the fall. Ms. Monn is waiting to hear from Elizabeth Morris about a summer program for kids in 4th to 8th grade but also will reach out to her about doing a fall program.

Commissioner Harvey asked about having a program on mental/emotional health issues focused on students going to or already attending college. Ms. Cleary noted that she and Commissioner Albright have been working on this area. Ms. Cleary shared an email she received about the Jordan Porco Foundation's What's Next program, which she forwarded to Megan Skelton. Commissioner Harvey will contact Dawn Egan about the WHS PTO regarding a program they may be having with the author of the Naked Roommate.

4. News/ideas/needs from WHS Representatives

Commissioners Angus and Watson talked about the WHS Student Government's plans to have a food truck again for Spirit Week. The Food, Friends and Funk event

is scheduled for April 8 and the total cost for the trunk is \$1323. They asked about the Commission helping to partially fund the cost for the truck as it did last year. Ms. Lisbon raised that if this is an annual event, it would be prudent for the Student Government to advise Youth Services at the beginning of the year so that Ms. Cleary can consider including the cost in the annual budget. Commissioner Tivey suggested that Youth Services send a letter to the Student Government specifying the information that Youth Services requires to consider a funding request. Ms. Lisbon will share with Commissioner Kolodney a sample application from the Women's League, which might be a model for such a letter. The Commission decided to leave the request with Ms. Cleary, who will review the information Commissioner Angus will provide her from the Student Government. The Commission also discussed that it would be a good idea if there could be a sign or banner showing the Commission's support for the event. Commissioner Tivey will send Ms. Cleary some information about a place to order banners.

Commissioner Watson noted that he has observed that a number of students are falling asleep in class and may be sleep deprived. He will contact Patty Powers, the Curriculum and Instruction Leader for Health for the school system about how sleep issues are addressed in the curriculum. Ms. Falber noted that it is going to become a graduation requirement so will need to be added to curriculum. Commissioner Harvey also suggested that he find out from Ms. Powers about when the new graduation requirement may be coming before the Board of Education's Curriculum Committee.

5. Old Business

- a. Review parent survey responses – Ms. Cleary summarized the 102 responses that she received on the parent survey. She noted that the majority of responses were from WMS parents, with the next highest number coming from WIS parents. Major areas of concern were, with the highest first, friendship/social, anxiety, and social media. Other areas mentioned were students not having enough free time and bullying. In terms of where parents go for help, responses were first from private resources and then school staff. The top item parents were looking for were activities for WHS and WMS students.

Ms. Cleary would like to consider one fall and one spring event for students. Commissioner Harvey noted that parents should participate in the upcoming Plan of Conservation and Development meetings as the Town is looking at how to best use Town property and buildings (teen center). Commissioner Kolodney mentioned that she finds the programs with the most value include parents and their kids participating together.

Discussion continued regarding current activities for students. Ms. Falber noted the events done at WIS and Commissioner Kolodney noted those done at WMS.

b. Review of recent youth services events – see attachments

c. Upcoming scheduled events – see attachments

6. New Business

a. Report/review from Youth Services Director – see attachments

- i. programming
- ii. JRB – update

b. Coalition contributions – Ms. Cleary and Commissioner Harvey reported on the Coalition’s meeting that occurred earlier in the day, including ADAP’s receipt of a grant to address opioid addiction and Jon Pressman’s request for grant applications focusing on mental health, suicide prevention or drug addiction, including one he received for the Child Guidance Center.

c. Update on WOW and other ongoing programs – see attachments

7. Marketing Programming (posting, update on town Facebook page and town website)

Deferred, except there was a brief discussion about reaching parents through means other than in-person meetings, such as webinars.

8. For the good of the order

No further matters raised.

9. Adjournment

Motion: *Move to adjourn the meeting.* Motion by Commissioner Kolodney, second by Commissioner Tivey. Vote 6-0 (Angus, Frank, Harvey, Kolodney, Tivey, Watson).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Harvey, Secretary of the Commission