

Wethersfield Youth Advisory Board Meeting January 5, 2006

Name	Present	Absent	Excused Absence
Maria Calleri	X		
Steve Cook/Jim Collin			X
Matthew Daskal	X		
Sharon DiGioia-Daskal			X
Mike Fisher		X	
Debra Hammer	X		
Melissa Hoon	X		
Ryan M. Jordan	X		
Jeff Kotkin	X		
Natalie Kotkin	X		
Susan Miller	X		
Barbara J. Ruhe	X		
Laurie Slade	X		
Nancy Stilwell	X		
Kaitlin Taylor	X		
Kristin Zeller	X		
Heather Zottola	X		

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

[The minutes from the December meeting](#) were reviewed and accepted.

Department of Youth Services Update

- DYS will be moving into their new space this month.
- Central Connecticut State University is continuing their survey of students.
- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving gives money to DYS through the Slader Fund. DYS is requesting that \$500 be used to purchase carabiners for students in the ROPE program and \$850 to purchase snow shoes for outdoor adventure programs. A motion was made by Barbara Ruhe to use \$1350 of Slader Fund money for carabiners and snowshoes. Heather Zottola seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.
- Money is still an issue for the department and Tom McLoughlin's position may not be filled.
- The town is looking for volunteers to staff an emergency shelter. There will be training on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Newington Town Hall. Anyone interested should contact Nancy Stilwell.

Youth in Government

- Students at Hanmer School will be voting using machines in the spring to select school colors and a t-shirt logo.

Matt Daskal attempted to contact Bonnie Therrien to discuss increasing youth involvement on boards and commissions.

- Natalie Kotkin is still waiting for a response from Dr. Proctor about having student representation on the Board of Education.
- Youth Volunteer Recognition Night will be Thursday, April 6th at the Pitkin Community Center. We are looking for a keynote speaker.

Underage Drinking Task Force

- Melissa Hoon has attempted to call Rushford to get a teenage recovering addict to speak to students.
- DYS and the YAB would like to get "Looking in Theater" to perform for the middle school students about drugs, alcohol and peer pressure. We would then like to facilitate a discussion with parents that same evening on these topics. Barbara Ruhe suggested an incentive such as a homework pass for students whose parents attend the discussion. Barbara Ruhe will look into contacting "Looking in Theater".

Future Projects

- Debra Hammer has not had any luck in contacting Mike Fisher regarding the DARE program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.