

Weston Commission for Children and Youth Minutes from the April 6, 2015 Meeting

In attendance: Lynn Phillips, Jeff Drobner, Ellen Weyrauch, Chris Spaulding, Cathy Minter, Michelle Albright, Charlene Monn, Dru Walters, Nicole Wilhelm, Lindsey Kappel, Dan McNeil

Meeting called to order at 5:37 pm by Michelle Albright.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the March 2nd meeting were approved with no revisions.

Membership

- Dan McNeil, current Hurlbutt PTO president, former Hurlbutt teacher, and parent to a 7- and 2-year-old, was introduced to the Commission as he would like to join as a member. Dan would be a wonderful addition to the Commission and Michelle and he will follow up with Gail regarding appointment.

Program Updates

- Registration for Spring WOW programs began the week of March 17th and most classes filled. Two programs (yoga and art) were cancelled at HES and one program (science) was cancelled at WIS.
- We are offering several new programs including cartooning, WOW singers, Jedi engineering with Legos, sensational-science, and game gala.
- Registration is open for our summer camps although numbers are still somewhat low.
- Michelle gave a presentation on Stress & Success at the Darien Depot on March 11th for 15 participants. Michelle will be repeating this presentation during the 2015-2016 Coffee & Conversation series we will be co-sponsoring with Wilton Youth Services & Silver Hill.
- WYS co-sponsored a special screening of Haze, a documentary about alcohol abuse on college campuses, on Wednesday March 18th with ADAP at Weston Public Library. There were approximately 20 attendees, mostly parents. WHS seniors were also shown Haze in health class.
- WYS cosponsored a showing of *Miss Representation* Sunday March 15th at the Weston Public Library in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Weston Library. There were approximately 25 attendees, including some families with older children.
- WYS co-sponsored a social event for approximately 28 members of the WHS student government on Tuesday March 31st. Students participated in a included a range of activities including designing team mottos & t-shirts, a spontaneous building challenge modeled on Odyssey of the Mind, a dodgeball game, and Weston trivia.
- Michelle spoke to the HES PTO on March 11th (30 attendees) about gender stereotypes and the WIS PTO (12 attendees) on March 12th about emotional intelligence as part of the Tackling the Tough Stuff series.
- Michelle attended a regional Youth Service Bureau meeting and learned that pending legislation to move YSB's under the guidance Department of Children and Families has been dropped. In terms of budget impact, it appears that we will likely lose our \$5000 enhancement grant moving forward.

Publicity

- Members discussed how to maximize our use of social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our WYS webpage. Given that many parents use Facebook we will make an effort to increase "likes" of our page and make more proactive efforts to post and share information via that site.
- Michelle and Charlene shared samples of old WYS brochures, as well as brochures from other YSBs. They are working on developing content for a new brochure which they will share with production pricing at the next meeting.
- Jeff will serve as a publicity chair and work with Michelle to distribute/post press releases and information about upcoming events.

Robert Brooks event

- Michelle shared a flyer and press release for the Robert Brooks presentation created by Silver Hill.
- We will put a press release in the Weston Forum, as well as blast program announcements via the WYS database of over 1000, the PTO newsletters, on our Facebook page, and on the Moms in Weston and Moms Beyond Facebook pages.
- All members were encouraged to publicize this event to help ensure good attendance at the Weston presentation.

Additional business

- Members discussed the evolution of the All Star Driver program; WYS used to receive a small fee for each student who completed the course but several years ago Commission members decided to request that All Star reduce their fee accordingly so parents could receive this discount rather than having the funds go directly to WYS. In light of recent budget restrictions and the work of Charlene in helping coordinate the program, members discussed restructuring our agreement with All Star to once again receive a small fee. Michelle and Charlene will research how All Star operates with other surrounding towns, compare fees, and initiate a discussion with All Star about arrangements going forward.
- Members discussed WOW enrollment and how parents view WOW (e.g., as extended day care or as an afterschool enrichment activity). Members also discussed shifting popularity of various WOW programs and how to ensure that programs complement and enhance academic offerings. In particular, members discussed participation in science related programs and how to coordinate this with STEM programs at WIS and WMS.

Our next meeting will be held May 4th at 5:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Albright