

Weston Commission for Children and Youth
Minutes from the December 2, 2013 Meeting

In attendance: Michelle Albright, Charlene Monn, Chris Spaulding, Dru Walters, Nicole Wilhelm, Lois Pernice, Dan Doak, Julia Weisman, Jack Kerns, Ellen Weyrauch, Stacy Kamisar, Catherine Minter, Lindsey Kappel, Lynn Phillips, Sitta Harris, Eilene Brostoff

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm by Michelle Albright

Approval of October 2013 minutes (first by Lynn Phillips, second by Catherine Minter)

Membership

- We were thrilled to have Nicole Wilhelm, the Assistant Principal from WIS, and Dru Walters, the Assistant Principal from WMS, in attendance – as well as two new student commissioners, Julia Weisman and Lindsey Kappel!
- Lynn reviewed the Commission charter and we are supposed to be a nine member commission comprised of seven adults and two student members. Given that we've found some wonderful and interested students, we would like to have a senior and junior as student commissioners, and a sophomore who participates as a non-voting member.

Family University

- Lois reviewed the history of Family University
 - Michelle reviewed the list of potential speakers and members discussed their opinions and preferences; members unanimously agreed that Marc Brackett seemed the most engaging speaker and dealt with issues most relevant to children and families within our community
 - Members discussed the need to clarify what facilities will be needed, speaker fees, and potential conflicts (e.g., other sporting, social, or academic events)
- ➔ Michelle will follow-up with Marc Brackett regarding his availability for late March, early April
- ➔ Dan and Lois will check about availability of facilities

ADAP & Pre-Prom Initiative

- Sitta Harris and Eilene Brostoff from ADAP joined the meeting to share the history of the annual pre-prom event
 - Members discussed shifting the timing of the event to earlier in the year to include seniors who go off on internship and expanding the focus to ensure that the intended message targets more than responsible behavior during prom
 - Student members discussed their reactions to previous speakers and noted the importance of speakers that are engaging, humorous, and address broader topics than substance use.
 - Members discussed the role of the Commission and Youth Services in planning and implementing this event, as well as the typical costs involved (e.g., in the past speakers have cost, on average, \$3000 and WYS has contributed toward this fee)
- ➔ Michelle will follow-up with Sitta and Eilene regarding potential speakers
- ➔ Dan will check on scheduling if the event was moved to earlier in May

Positive Directions Student & Parent Survey

- Michelle reported that the survey results have been shared with school administrators and she will be meeting with them, principals from across all schools, and Lauren Lanham from Positive Directions in late December to review findings and plan for the roll out of results
- Members expressed frustration that it has taken so long to distribute findings
- Michelle addressed the importance of linking findings to programming (both prevention and intervention)

Director's report

- Tackling the Tough Stuff focus for November and December is Holiday Health and Happiness; lower attendance this month, but still many repeat attendees
- Continuing to provide waivers for WOW programs, PTO membership fees, and arts/music programs
- Continuing to see eighth-graders individually and groups who are still wrestling with issues related to grief and trauma
- Continuing to receive referrals and inquiries from parents seeking advice/consultation on specific issues
- Working with Hurlbutt and WIS Community Service chairs for a holiday food/gift card drive (will coordinate with Charlene Hillman and Social Services)
- Collaborating with WMS and WHS to implement program to enhance body acceptance and self-esteem
- Was invited to HS assemblies on 'sexting' and will be distributing resources to parents who want additional information a/o guidance

Program Coordinator's report

- Fall WOW! session is ending - 17 classes at Hurlbutt and 15 at WIS
- Winter WOW! session will begin in January – offering 18 classes at Hurlbutt and 13 at WIS
- Offering new programs this session including Hola Mis Amigos! (Spanish for Kindergarteners), a puppet-making workshop, digital storytelling, and a cultural music and movement class
- Starting to plan for summer programming – will coordinate with WPS regarding co-sponsoring their performing arts camps
- Considering moving the registration time to 10pm (from 12 am) for future WOW! registration

Scheduling of future meetings

- Members discussed moving meetings to a different day of the week and starting slightly later. We will plan on meeting the third Wednesday of each month, unless there is a conflict and then we will plan to meet the first Wednesday. Hence, the meeting schedule for 2014 is as follows
- Wednesday January 8th at 5:30
- Wednesday February 19th at 5:30
- Wednesday March 19th at 5:30
- Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30***this is the week before Family University so we may want to discuss whether we meet then or meet April 23rd to debrief

- Wednesday May 21st at 5:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Albright