

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**  
**Mayor's Youth Council Meeting**  
**6:00 PM Town Hall Room 217**



### **1. Meeting Opening**

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A. MYC Chair Zaara Shahzad called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:01PM. Present were Council members Daphne Brewer, Tess Chapman, Kushal Gauli, Jack Gold, Sarah Granquist, Kikoh Mordukai, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli, Kris Rimal, Jeffry Rosborg, Zaara Shahzad, and Priya Shinde. Priya Sinha and staff liaison Kari Karp arrived late. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Head of Children's Department.

Absent: Reese Berigan, Tziyona Goldfischer, Oliver Hartmann, Ailani Roach, and Caitlin Striff-Cave

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

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- i. The minutes of the February 7th meeting were distributed to MYC members.
- ii. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved.

### **3. School Reports**

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A. Conard: Kris shared that Conard is preparing for Frozen the Musical. Today was the preview for the show, and tickets are completely sold out. Conard's science team attended a competition and placed in the top ten of the region. Evan shared that the boys track team had athletes take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the high jump at New England's.

B. Hall: Zaara shared that Pops n Jazz is taking place this week, and MYC members Caitlin, Priya Shinde, and Sarah are in the show. Additionally, the Answer Show took place recently and was very funny and entertaining.

C. Kingswood Oxford: Tess shared that KO recently had its musical called Sweet Charity. KO seniors are also finishing their theses this week, which is an important project. Starting next week, KO has spring break for 2 weeks. Moh shared that there is an upcoming Paraguay community service trip. There is also a baseball trip soon, and multiple track athletes qualified for Nationals.

D. New England Jewish Academy: No MYC members from NEJA were present at the meeting.

#### **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 she is working on the next set of 6 MYC bio posts.

D. Outreach / Recruitment

i. Kris stated for Ailani that she did not have anything to share with the Council.

E. Butterfly Project

i. MYC members shared that Hall still needs to find somewhere to fire its butterflies.

ii. The subcommittee should also continue planning the the Zoom or podcast with a Holocaust survivor.

F. Environmental Video Contest

i. Evan encouraged MYC members to submit their own videos and participate in the contest. The contest has not yet received any submissions or emails.

ii. Jeff shared that he talked to Conard's Environmental Club about the contest. They are interested in completing the project as a club, and a group of students will make a video submission together.

iii. Ailani recently wrote a press release about the contest which was sent out on February 27.

- iv. The subcommittee is also searching for judges, but their biggest concern at the moment is gathering submissions.
- v. Reese shared through his notes that he plans to put up posters for the contest all over Conard. The contest was posted on the CHS Instagram page and will stay there for a few days. He is also working on drafting a written piece that can be read over the morning announcements.
- vi. MYC members may work on creating a commercial to further promote the contest.
- vi. All MYC members are encouraged to continue promoting the contest.

#### G. Walking Tour of West Hartford

- i. Priya Shinde shared that the subcommittee is working on organizing training days for tour guides.
- ii. Sarah encouraged MYC members to volunteer as tour guides or inform friends who may be interested in participating about this opportunity. Anyone interested in being a tour guide is instructed to fill out a google form, which will be sent to MYC members shortly.
- iii. Members of the subcommittee recently interviewed for a Connecticut in Color segment on NBC 30 and did a fantastic job spreading awareness about the history of slavery in West Hartford and the upcoming walking tour.
- iv. There are also plans to hold a walking tour field trip for U.S. History classes, but the cost of buses is a challenge.

#### H. West Hartford Immigrant Teens

- i. Kris and Zaara shared that the most recent Art & Chat event had to be postponed due to the weather.
- ii. WHiT and Golden Door received a very generous Youth Initiative grant that must be spent down by July. At the most recent meeting, they discussed ways to use the grant.
- iii. The money has been divided into spending categories, and may be spent on WHiT merchandise, ordering supplies for welcome bags for immigrant students that will be created next year, holiday celebrations, field trips, speakers and presenters, and a WHiT scholarship.
- iv. WHiT is currently trying to create a podcast where people can talk about their story of immigrating to West Hartford.
- v. Any MYC members who have ideas of teen-oriented ways WHiT can spend its grant should reach out.
- vi. Subcommittee members would like to help create more structure to WHiT by implementing subcommittees and creating set days for planning

activities. They will meet with Ellen Salzman-Fiske, the WHiT co facilitator, to figure this information out. Mrs. Waxman also offered to help create structure.

vii. WHiT will be attending a Human Rights Commission meeting on April 5th. They will prepare a presentation that explains what WHiT is and what the group does.

## 5. Old Business

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### A. Member Bios and Subcommittee Photos for Instagram

- i. Daphne shared that she is working on the next 6 member bio posts.
- ii. Daphne resent the bio form to MYC who have not yet submitted theirs.
- iii. MYC members should send photos of recent council-related activities to Daphne to be posted on Instagram.
- iv. MYC members decided to take a photo after the meeting and post it to the Instagram page.
- v. Sarah shared the idea of doing day-in-the-life Instagram takeovers.

### B. House Bill 6203 Shared Document

- i. Mrs. Karp sent a shared Google doc for members interested in drafting a letter in response to the House Bill 6203 Action Alert. This bill was announced at the Holocaust Remembrance Day event at Emanuel Synagogue on January 29th.
- ii. MYC only needs to write a brief letter for Education Committee Members to encourage them to provide the State Education Resource Center with funding for Holocaust and Genocide Education training, materials, and professional development.
- iii. All MYC members can access the document and are encouraged to leave their thoughts or personal statements as bullet points. Mrs. Karp or someone else can then send a letter on behalf of MYC before the next meeting.
- iv. Jeff was thanked for posting an idea on the shared document.

### C. Hartford Foundation Logo Contest

- i. Evan shared that the Hartford Foundation has concluded the contest and selected its new logo.

### D. CT Association of Student Councils

- i. Jeff shared that the Association is no longer searching for presenters, and has found their entire board of student and faculty presenters.

ii. Jeff will continue to update the MYC if any opportunities come up.

E. Environmental Video Contest Publicity and Commercial Update

i. Evan shared that the video contest should be announced at school, perhaps through a community lesson.

ii. Mrs. Waxman shared that the Noah Webster Library has a recording studio with a greenscreen and MYC members can film a commercial there. She will provide interested members with the contact information to set up a time to record.

## 6. Announcements

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A. Kikoh shared that on Thursday, March 23rd there is a multicultural night at Hall open to the public. There will be a variety of foods provided, and MYC members are encouraged to attend.

B. Priya Shinde shared that Pops N Jazz shows start this weekend and encouraged MYC to purchase tickets and attend.

C. Art Banner Contest

i. Mrs. Waxman shared that in the Fall, she helped with a project that involved children at the library creating drawings that were expanded into banners and hung up on light poles in West Hartford Center.

ii. The library and West Hartford Municipal Parking department would like to repeat this project with teens, and Mrs. Waxman requested MYC members' help in coming up with a theme for the drawings.

iii. MYC members shared ideas for themes including drawings about your family, local legends, something you are passionate about, or repeating the theme used by children at the library of "My Happy Place".

D. WHiT Art & Chat Program

i. The most recent Art & Chat Program that was supposed to take place on March 4 had to be rescheduled.

ii. Mrs. Karp shared that on April 1 at 10AM at Noah Webster Library WHiT is holding another Art & Chat program. This program will involve LED embroidery and working with metal thread. The program is already half full, and interested members are encouraged to sign up quickly.

E. Zaara shared that on June 24, there will be a Pride Perler Beads and Painted Door Signs event at Noah Webster Library.

F. Zaara shared that the WHiT budget could be used to hold a diversity night, similar to the one that last year's MYC members wanted to create.

- G. Priya Shinde shared the idea of doing a fundraiser to help stop the Willow Project. If the environmental video contest runs smoothly, this may be a project for the Environmental subcommittee to take on next.
- H. Evan shared that on April 2nd the Teen Advisory board is hosting a chess event and encouraged MYC members to attend.

## **7. 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 7:04 pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217**