

## Windsor Youth Commission

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:30 p.m.

### Minutes

#### **Zoom instructions**

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285804115>

Or Telephone: 1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 822 8580 4115

**Attendance: Sarah Maffiolini, Bruce McCormick, Bob Gange, Rich Henderson, Pam Cook, Melissa Richards, , Jeremy Halek, Julian Martinez, Shanee Ransom and Ahmed-Syed Iffath**

1. Call to order – 6:30pm
2. Chairperson's remarks – Bruce (2 minutes) - Bruce would like to welcome everyone and wish everyone a Happy New Year.
3. Meeting minutes – Bruce (2 minutes) - Approved, Bob Gange, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Cook
4. Updates on commission members, vacancies, and recruitment – Sarah (2 minutes) - There is still some vacancies.
5. LPC report – Sarah (2 minutes) - There is a solid focus on Vaping. Looking to use some of the funds to do a CVS window focusing on vaping. Project to be complete in March
6. Public comment – N/A
7. New business –
  - a) WHS Social Action Club Project – Iffath (5 minutes) – The club is student led. Looking to do a mini magazine of students work on acceptance. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please let Ahmed – Syed Iffath know.
  - b) Family Trivia Nights – 5 minutes – The event was held on Fri. Jan. 15. There was 70 people registered and over \$360 gift cards in prizes were given out. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Trivia Night on Feb. 19. If anyone has good trivia questions please send them to Sarah Maffiolini.
  - c) WHS Local Scholarships – 5 minutes – Discussed different topics that students will have to write an essay on. The essay will be a 1,000 words or less.
  - d) Addressing teen isolation – Pam (5 minutes) – There was an email sent to the Middle and High School requesting if there was anything taken place to address teen isolation. Please see attached the response.
8. Old business –
  - a) Vaping prevention resources – Sarah (5 minutes) – If anyone has anything on vaping prevention please send information to Sarah Maffiolini
9. Standing Committee Reports –

- a) Police Department – N/A
- b) Recreation Services – There will be no WIBL basketball this season. Karate is going well with 12 participants. There is in session doing both virtual and in class sessions. Both Lego and Yoga classes are happening via zoom.
- c) Windsor Public Schools – N/A
- d) Board of Education – N/A
- e) Library Services – N/A
- f) Youth Services – see attached
- g) Youth Liaison – School is at the halfway point. The transition with students being able to attend school either virtually or in person is going well.

10. Adjournment – 7:20pm Bob Gange, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Cook

**Talk without Text** is geared toward having meaningful conversations with your family. We know that open communication and a strong relationship with your children starts at a young age. To help you foster and maintain this important line of communication, we've developed and designed a pack of cards that open dialogue and start crucial conversations. Studies link regular family dinners with many healthy behaviors: lower rates of substance use and depression, higher grade-point averages, and self-esteem. This is a regional partnership brought to you by the Windsor & Windsor Locks Youth Services Bureau and the Windsor Locks Wellness Coalition.

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[Visit our website](#)



Windsor High School recognizes the importance of social emotional wellness for all school community members. Over the past three years, we have worked to become a Restorative School. Restorative Practices (RP) is a school-wide system designed to improve school culture by building, strengthening, maintaining, and repairing relationships among students, faculty, staff, and families. RP moves away from punitive measures towards an educational approach that focuses on healing, accountability, problem-solving, growth mindset, and change.

The worldwide pandemic has created a challenge in being able to build and support relationships through our traditional measures so over the past year, we have strengthened and developed the following strategies to nurture the social emotional wellness of our students.

- Faculty members receive routine practice in the skills of Restorative.
- Teachers are expected to take the first 5-10 minutes of class to build community and check in with students' emotional states. Most teachers use a rating scale, private messages, or quick questions.
- Wednesday's are fully remote learning days and students are able to work asynchronously in hopes of decreasing screen time. Wednesdays are also an early release day; this shift allows students to catch up on work or meet one on one with teachers after school through a Google Meet.
- We hold a virtual weekly advisory meeting. These meetings are an opportunity to strengthen connections between students and teachers.
- Our School Counselors continue to meet with students both in person and through Google Meets.
- We have 1.6 School Psychologists and 2.4 social workers that meet with students.
- We currently have clubs and activities that meet virtually. Students are also invited to start a club based on their interests.
- Our Winter Sports season has just begun with tryouts taking place over the next couple of weeks.
- Our School Social Workers host targeted small group sessions for students that have been identified as in need of additional support.
- Our partnership with the *Windsor Youth Services Bureau* seems to be re-energized with our collaborative plans to support students that may be in need of hours for loss of credit due to attendance.

- We have recently been working with the *WPS Office of Community and Family Partnerships* to develop a mentorship program that will allow for virtual mentorship between students and community partners.