

Wethersfield Youth Advisory Board Meeting November 2, 2005

Members in Attendance: Jim Collin, Matthew Daskal, Sharon DiGioia-Daskal, Debra Hammer, Melissa Hoon, Ryan Jordan, Natalie Kotkin, Susan Miller, Nancy Stilwell, Kaitlin Taylor, Kristin Zeller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Department of Youth Services Update

- Evaluation continues; it focuses on if services are being duplicated. CCSU came back with a different proposal that focuses on services for elderly and youth that may be needed, but are not being provided.
- CCSU is looking for extra money for new proposal
- Skate park opened at the end of October with a ceremony; design of this park is one of only a few in the United States
- Finished with Rope at Highcrest and will be beginning at the next school
- Crossroads at the middle school is full; waitlist for most classes
- Taking names for families who may need holiday help
- Taking names for families who will need help with gifts for their children; donor families provide the gifts; provided for over 100 families last year

Youth in Government

- Hanmer School - 3 media panelists will be coming into the school on November 7th to speak to the students about media and politics; the students are preparing questions for the panel regarding how they obtain their information and how they report the information
- Matt Daskal is drafting letter to town manager (to be forwarded to boards and commissions) to ask for youth seats to be put on their boards; Nancy Stilwell received a verbal approval from the town manager to pursue this.
- Are there any student representatives on the Board of Education? Natalie Kotkin will check into this.

Underage Drinking Task Force

- Ken Friedenber from Youth/Social Services in Newington and Nancy Stilwell will be meeting to look into planning a cooperative program for the middle school in the spring (possible theatre group - Looking in Theatre)
- Melissa Hoon will also look into the possibility of having a young person who has made poor choices in the past speak to the students about how these poor choices affected his/her life
- Information will be passed on to the chief of police that there is a possible situation where underage drinkers are getting people outside package stores to buy alcohol in Wethersfield

Future Projects

- High school members are asking to see if a DARE type program could be offered in the high school. There is currently a high school health program, but they believe having a police officer providing the information might be more effective.

Financial Report

- We have \$1,529 in our budget.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.