

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: April 12, 2022

7pm

Meeting Place: Memorial Town Hall

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 4-12-22 to order at 7:06. Also in attendance were: A. Aron, S. Snyder, B. Skudder, D. McMahon, R. Wahl, S. Murphy, R. Xeller, J. Yorke, K. Dess, J. Rogers, S. Murphy, and MYFS staff: E. Corbett, A. Ahern, K. Labbie, C. Ouellette, S. Cochran, and M. Fahey.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
 - D. Buller welcomed everyone to the first in-person MYFS Board meeting since March 2020.
 - D. Buller announced that the May and June board meetings will be held at The Surf Club.
 - D. Buller encouraged board members who may have concerns about meeting in person to reach out to himself or S. Cochran.
 - D. Buller announced that L. LaPorta has resigned from the Board.
 - D. Buller reminded board members to refer people to him or Scott to discuss possible placement on the board.
3. Approval of minutes from March 8, 2022. Motion made by B. Skudder and seconded by R. Xeller. Motion approved.
4. Public Comment—None
5. Correspondence—None

OLD BUSINESS

6. Status update on budget and special projects
 - S. Cochran shared that the remaining additional request to regrade the school-based clinicians had been approved by the BOS and the BOF. It is now waiting for the referendum vote.
 - S. Cochran reported he will be applying for ARPA funds to fulfill the request to make the part-time Parent Support Counselor position a full-time position.

- S. Cochran also stated that the town is creating building and advisory committees for the school project as well as the Academy Project building.
- S. Cochran asked board members to consider being a liaison to the Academy Project building/advisory committee.
- S. Cochran shared that the estimated construction period for both the school project and the Academy project is two to three years, and also commented that there are several variables such as the cost and availability of construction materials that could impact the project.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Treasurer's Report – Andrea Aron

- A. Aron stated there were no donations to approve this month.
- A. Aron reminded board members to drop off Sunshine money at the MYFS office or to bring to the next meeting.

8. Student Report – Darian McMahon and Rebe Wahl

- D. McMahon reported on the “Jane Doe No More” assembly where victims of sexual assault shared their stories.
- R. Wahl discussed the Community presentation of Jane Doe No More at the Congregational Church.
 - R. Wahl discussed the possibility of future sexual assault presentations with “Jane Doe No More” be done with smaller groups based on feedback and her own experience in the smaller group when held at the church.
 - R. Wahl suggested the possibility of presenting multiple speakers in PAW groups.
- R. Wahl reported on the Roots club (the project club).
 - R. Wahl discussed the goal of getting comfortable chairs in classrooms to improve the overall mental health of students.
 - A bake sale is being planned; and other fundraising opportunities are being explored.
- D. McMahon discussed the new Athletic Director and 3 major goals for the new AD:
 - Continued programming to discuss sexual assault with school athletes.

- DHHS is a designated ‘Class Act School’ with the CIAC and will need to continue the model for appropriate sportsmanship for fans.
 - Increasing attendance at girl’s athletic events.
 - D. McMahon discussed meeting with Principal Salutari and continuing to share survey results to students next year.
 - D. McMahon, a senior, reported on how happy the seniors were to have been in school all year and to be able to participate in all of the end-of-year celebrations.
 - D. McMahon gave kudos to all of the teachers at DHHS.
 - R. Wahl reported on the stress and competitive environment at DHHS and brainstormed some ways to address the issue next year.
 - Ideas included discussions in PAW groups, and discussions in general to bring the issue out in a public way that allows students to discuss the competitive environment.
 - D. Buller thanked R. Wahl and D. McMahon for their student report.
9. Staff presentation – MYFS Interns Alisa D’Andrea, Kaitlyn Labbie, Corrine Ouellette

- A. Ahern introduced the interns—Kaitlyn Labbie and Cori Ouellette; Alisa D’Andrea prepared a recorded summary of her experience at MYFS.
- K. Labbie described her experience at MYFS as having surpassed her expectations.
 - K. Labbie reported on the ability to work with groups in schools and having clients in the outpatient clinic, in addition to working with staff at multiple schools and building long-term resources going forward.
- C. Ouellette described her time with MYFS as an experience that is better than what many of her fellow students have had.
 - C. Ouellette discussed the freedom given to her to practice as a clinician as being significant training for an intern.
 - C. Ouellette also provided insight into her roles as a co-facilitator in one of the ‘Zones of Regulation’ groups, as well as her experience in health classes at DHHS.
- A. D’Andrea discussed her experience working with parents and families and the support she has been able to give to her clients.

- A. D’Andrea has been working closely with Marj Adler, who retired from MYFS as the Parent Support Counselor.
- A. Ahern and E. Corbett, MYFS staff and the supervisors for the interns, expressed how important the intern experience is and how fortunate MYFS is to have had 3 interns who all have a caseload and have helped MYFS to be able to support this community.

10. Director’s Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- S. Cochran reminded board members that M. Balletto has sent an email requesting support from the board to choose the recipient of the Battison Scholarship.
- S. Cochran informed the board that R. Xeller could no longer be the liaison on the Marijuana Ad-Hoc committee and asked board members to consider joining the committee.
- S. Cochran shared with the board the date for the MYFS Awards banquet on 4/28/22 at the Senior Center at 6:00 pm.
 - Dinner will be served before the awards are presented.
 - S. Cochran told the board to consider attending the MYFS Awards Banquet.
 - S. Cochran shared the following award winners:
 - Students: Evan Mastrobattisto, Brigid O’Keefe, Darian McMahon, and Redmond Sullivan.
 - Community Leaders: Justin Murphy and Lenny and Joe’s Fishtale.
- S. Cochran discussed the recent BOE meeting that he and C. Barden attended to share results of the youth survey and programming being done that addresses issues seen in the survey.
 - S. Cochran shared that BOE members were very favorable about the role of MYFS in the Community.
 - D. Buller also attended that meeting and shared how grateful the BOE is for the collaboration that exists between the schools and MYFS.
 - D. Buller emphasized that the entire board should be proud of the role that members play in supporting MYFS.
 - A. Aron stated that the MYFS Board is very in tune with MYFS.
- S. Cochran reported that Tiffany Purvis Torello will be the Social Worker “Extern” who will work with the Madison Police Department.

- S. Cochran stated that this is a pilot program and will help the town to provide some short-term outreach services and collect data on how Madison may develop such a position within the MPD.
- The Police Accountability Law will require that all police departments have a social worker to provide services in the community.
- J. Yorke reported that police departments around the state are approaching the expectations with a wide amount of variation, and some may regionalize social work services by partnering with organizations like BH Care; or they can have a social worker on staff.
- The pilot includes T. Torello to review police reports at the MPD and follow up with the people who may benefit from social work services.
- J. Yorke reported that a review of recent calls indicates that a social worker has the potential to be well-utilized with the Madison Police Department; though each person contacted can decline services.
- S. Cochran reported that he will be applying for ARPA funds to make the part-time Parent Support Counselor position full-time.
 - S. Cochran shared that he is waiting on information necessary to apply for these funds through the ARPA committee.
 - S. Cochran shared that he is also considering applying for funds to create a part-time clinical position to help with the growing wait-list that MYFS now has for clinical clients.
 - S. Cochran will let board members know when the MYFS requests will be heard by the ARPA committee so that they may show their support for these requests.

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11. Liaison Report –TBD

- J. Yorke, MPD, indicated his updates were covered in the discussion of the new MPD extern.
- S. Murphy gave the following updates from the BOS:
 - Green-up/Clean-up day is 4/30/22.
 - Building committees are currently interviewing for members.
 - The Ethics Committee is about to begin official meetings.

- The Madison Ambulance Association is holding a flag sale.
- The sale of Island Ave School is about to be completed.
- A. Aron updated the board on the Affordable Housing Committee:
 - The committee was charged with having a plan in place by 6/1—and the committee is moving towards that goal.
 - A. Aron reported that nearly 800 people responded to the survey,
 - A. Aron reported that there will be a public hearing on affordable housing on 5/23/22; then the plan goes to the state.
- 12. Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair
 - None.
- 13. Open Discussion—Board members encouraged to ask questions, provide input.
 - R. Xeller discussed his time on the Marijuana Ad-hoc Committee.
 - S. Cochran reminded the board that the May and June meetings will be at the Surf Club.
 - S. Cochran shared that Laurie Heflin from Neighbor-2-Neighbor will be attending the 5-10-22 meeting.
 - S. Cochran suggested that the 6-7-22 meeting may be shorter in duration, and suggested we may adjourn to an informal Board/Staff social gathering at the Surf Club
- 14. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 8:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Fahey
Administrative Assistant,
Madison Youth and Family Services