



June Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2015 at YMCA Camp Sloper
1000 East Street, Southington, CT 06489

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Ofc. Chad Butler, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, John Dobbins, E. Richard Fortunato, Jim Garstang, Kristen Guida, Justine Griffin, Sarah Lamb, Shane Lockwood, John Myers, Chris Palmieri, Pastor Joshua Rinas, Josie Rogala, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Victoria Triano, Rachel Wache.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard.

Guest Attendance: none.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Sue Saucier, at 4:45 p.m.

President Remarks: Sue welcomed everyone and started the meeting with a few special board recognition awards because Advisory Board Members Heather Bartley, John Myers and Victoria Triano are leaving the board (Heather Bartley was not present at the meeting). Sue said that John was one of the Founders of STEPS many years ago but luckily he isn't totally leaving us, just jumping into the Honorary Board Member position. Sue said that we all want to extend our gratitude to John because STEPS would probably not be around if it wasn't for all of the hard work and leadership he put into STEPS throughout the years. Sue said John was such a great leader, it made it easy to be a part of and excited about the organization.

Sue then recognized Victoria Triano. Sue said that Vicki was also one of the founders of the original committee that then became STEPS. Sue expressed her appreciation for everything Vicki has done to forward the work of STEPS and made it what it is today. Sue said that Vicki will also become an Honorary Board Member.

Sue also thanked Heather Bartley for all of the work she did with our Youth Committee. Heather was always eager to get students involved in community service activities and will join us once again when her own children go off to college.

Sue stated that a letter went home to families regarding underage drinking that was previously discussed at the May Advisory Board meeting. Sue wrote the letter, along with our Superintendent of Southington Schools, Tim Connellan, and was sent out to parents of high-school students. (The letter is included at the end of these minutes). Sue also thanked Victoria for assisting with the draft of the letter.

Sue also mentioned that she has been working with Sherri Dinello from the BOE regarding the grant budget and financial reports.

STEPS Moment of the Month:

The June Moment of the Month was presented by Heather Clinger. Heather said that although she has only been a member of this board since September, she feels that everyone is truly dedicated and she appreciates the support she has received. Heather noted that a coworker of hers saw the recent nail file campaign at a local salon and it sparked a conversation between her and the other women in the waiting area of the salon. Heather said that it was great to hear that people are getting the message and seeing our campaigns. Heather mentioned that she also attended a Youth Council meeting last month and was so impressed with their ideas and everything that they are doing to move forward. Heather gave every board member a beach towel with the STEPS logo and message that says "Parents, You Matter!" as a thank you from the committee.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Kristen Guida, presented the May 2015 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Victoria Triano. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Advisory Board Treasurer, Chris Palmieri, presented the June Donation Account balance. He said that there is currently a balance of \$15,921.00. John Myers motioned to approve the report and Jim Garstang seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2015-2016 Board Member Proposed Slate: Advisory Board President, Sue Saucier, presented the 2015-2016 Board Member Proposed Slate for consideration by the board members. John Myers made a motion to approve the slate and Jim Garstang seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Kelly Leppard will be contacting the new members during the month of July.

Staff Report:

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported on the following:

1. Saturday, June 20th STEPS is hosting the Drive-In Night and the movie is Despicable Me. Meredith stated that she sent out a signup genius for board members to sign up for a time slot and also passed around a paper copy for members to sign-up. Meredith stated that we need between 15 and 20 volunteers. If you are unavailable on Saturday night, we also need volunteers for Sunday morning clean up.

Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator, reported on the following:

1. Kelly thanked Victoria Triano and John Myers for their years with STEPS. She said they have been an integral part of the organization and have set the bar high for future leadership. Kelly also thanked Sue Saucier for being this year's Board President and welcomed Jim Garstang as the 2015-2016 President.
2. Kelly stated that this upcoming year is a survey and forum year for us. It will also include a parent forum with the Board of Education prior to the survey for any concerned parents to ask

questions regarding survey content. She said that this fall, we will need all hands on deck and will be looking for a great deal of board participation.

Sector Reports:

Education Sector:

Josie Rogala, Committee Chair, reported the following:

1. Josie stated that it has been a very busy time of year for schools and Asset Building Classrooms. She said that our 5th Grade Transition Days at YMCA Camp Sloper were a great success. For the transition days, students come from every elementary school in Southington and spend the day with the classmates they will have at their new schools and participate in workshops to build assets to help with their transition. Josie said that this year ran very smoothly. The committee made several changes from last year based on evaluations students filled out at the end of the day and from teachers' feedback as well. She said that we are looking forward to next year.
2. Josie stated that also this year, we will be having all of the 8th graders for the grade 8th to 9th grade Transition Day. Josie said that this is a pilot year and is happening in two weeks. Josie said that they are excited to see how this works out and hopefully will continue this event each year.
3. Josie said that this past month, there was also the 5th Annual Asset Building Champions Training Day at Vo-Ag. She said that all of the schools were represented this year -- middle school/high school in the morning and elementary schools were in the afternoon. She said that they also had a parent join the committee this year and did a great job making sure each school includes a way to bring the assets home as well as build them in the schools.

Military Sector:

Rachel Wache, Committee Chair, reported the following:

1. Rachel said that she is very excited for a partnership with the CT Army National Guard for a food drive this Saturday, June 6 from 10am-3pm at the Southington Walmart. She said they will be collecting food for kids to eat for the summer. She said that there is a list of the most common foods needed on the flyer that will be handed out, all food donated will go to Southington Community Services. She said that she is looking for adult volunteers on Saturday also.

Parent Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Chair, reported the following:

1. Heather said that Parent Committee survey was distributed almost two weeks ago and thanks to the Superintendent of Schools, it was sent to thousands of parents on his distribution list. Heather said that they have had about 360 responses so far, which is fantastic. Heather thanked everyone that completed it and for spreading the word. The survey closes this Friday, June 5.
2. Heather said that the Parent Committee will have a strip ad in the Observer this Friday, thanking parents for not hosting an underage drinking party and there will be a full page ad in the graduation edition of the Observer.

Youth Council:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Trever said that this past month, the Youth Council did something similar to the QPR Training at their meeting, just a less intense discussion due to the age of the students. Trever said that they are brainstorming ideas about something to do next year that is related to this topic but they are finding it touch because it is a hard topic to talk about.
2. Trever said that the Youth Council is still working with Lake Compounce regarding their alcohol signage.
3. Trever said that himself, Sarah and Justine spoke at the ABC training and it was really interesting because there are different kids on the ABC teams at every school and they really do a lot and are eager to get involved ó they have great ideas for next year. Trever said that it i really inspiring to see.
4. Trever said that the Youth Council is still working on promoting Southington Serves.
5. Trever also said that Relay for Life was this past weekend and the team made \$1,100; the car wash made just over \$500.

New Business: none.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick



SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 19, 2015

Dear Parents:

The end of the school year is an exciting time for all of us. The weather improves, high school proms are held, young people graduate and school ends. Along with these events come celebrations and parties. It is also a time for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of teens that might be coming to your home.

Recently in Southington, 2 adults were arrested under the Social Host law, allowing underage drinking on private property. Youth under the age of 21 were also cited for possession of alcohol by a minor.

We just want to take a minute and remind everyone of the serious consequences for allowing underage youth to drink in your home. Besides being arrested, you can be sued by other parents, lose your homeowners insurance or worse if someone is injured at your home or upon leaving your home. Did you know that the risk of violence and/or sexual assault increases when teens have been drinking and if this should happen at your home, you would be held liable? Luckily, none of these things happened in the 2 recent cases, but these things can and do happen. There is no doubt about it, underage drinking is dangerous and can have deadly consequences.

Many in our community have been working tirelessly over the last 5 years to reduce the rate of underage drinking in Southington and to educate parents on the Social Host law. We have had some success; however, we know that you as parents make the biggest impact. Won't you join us in keeping our young people healthy and safe?

Please do not provide, allow or host underage drinking in your home. You will sleep better and Southington will be a little safer because of your love for your children.

Regards,

Timothy Connellan
Superintendent of Schools
Advisory Board

Susan M. Saucier
President, STEPS

TIMOTHY F. CONNELLAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KAREN L. SMITH
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR
INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING

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