



October Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2015 at the
Southington YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Jack Eisenmann, Mark Fazzolari, E. Richard Fortunato, Tom Gallo, Steve Giudice, Kristen Guida, Sarah Lamb, Morgan Maccione, James McAloon, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Joshua Rinas, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Denise Sicotte, Carson Stifel and Rachel Wache

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard.

Honorary Attendance: none.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board Vice President, Kristen Guida, at 4:30 p.m.

Vice President Remarks: Kristen thanked everyone for being a part of the board and said that everyone at the meeting is integral to the success of the STEPS organization. Kristen said that hopefully the team leaders have reached out to their team members; she knows that some have responded, some haven't and that's fine but please in the future respond even if you don't have anything to report. Kristen said that we want to be an engaging board and really work together for the common good of the group.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Vice President, Kristen Guida, presented the September 2015 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Tom Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Staff member, Meredith Fenwick, reported that there is currently a balance of \$15,439.92 in the STEPS Donation account and no changes were made this month. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Tom Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report:

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported the following:

1. Meredith showed the board a proof of the brand new 40 Developmental Assets poster that was designed and will be distributed to all classrooms in town.

2. Meredith reported that we have decided to add a frequently asked questions or FAQ section to the STEPS website so that when questions arise such as "What does STEPS do?" or "How can my children get more involved in STEPS?" there will be answers available. Meredith stated that she will be sending out a survey monkey to board members to help come up with the FAQs and to think about what questions they have been personally asked in the past. Please be on the lookout for this email.

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

1. Kelly reported that on Tuesday, she and Meredith will be representing STEPS at the Calendar House Health Fair from 8:30-11:30am to promote the new Lock It or Drop It Campaign.
2. Kelly showed the board the new Public Service Announcement that just started to air through Cox Media on the Lock It or Drop It campaign and passed out campaign flyers to board members. Kelly asked members to please display the posters where they work or where they frequently visit.
3. Kelly reminded members to please like our Facebook page and share and like any articles that we post.
4. Kelly said that on October 29th, DePaolo's Asset Building Classrooms team will be holding their 2nd Annual Safety event. Kelly said that they are looking for organizations to have a table at the event. If you'd like to have a table for your organization, please let her know and she will arrange it.

Sector Reports:

Education:

James McAloon, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. James reported that as a coach/representative for the high school, he is reporting on some changes made in the Student Athlete Handbook. James said that he met with the new Athletic Director and after a tough spring for student athletes in Southington, changes needed to be made. He said that penalties have increased for the student athlete. He said that now, if you are using or in the presence of drug or alcohol at any time of the year, you will be suspended for a quarter of the season. He said that the hope is that the students will know they are representing their teams in the school, on the field and in the community. James said that it is a really big change and the students know that there are consequences for their actions.

Sue Saucier asked if the kids still will be practicing and sitting on the bench for the games. James said that no, they will be kept from the team altogether during that time. He said that another part of the consequences is that they will need to do 25 hours of community service. He said that maybe it would be recommended that they do that community service during the hours they would have been at practice and games.

Nancy Chiero said that she likes that it doesn't matter what time of the year the infraction happens, there will still be a consequence.

Mr. Fortunato offered to possibly do an interview with the new Athletic Director and get a story together about the changes made. James said there was an article in the Record-Journal about it but any additional publicity would be helpful.

2. James said that the SHS Student Council Think Tank will be heading to YMCA Camp Sloper on October 28th for a team building and leadership training. He said that during that day, they will also break out into sub committees and come up with some ways to incorporate the Assets of the Month at the high school, which has been a struggle with over 2000 kids in the past.

Parent Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Heather reported that the Be in the Know forum is next Wednesday, October 14th at the Municipal Center. She said that the forum is being presented by Attorney Tony Sheffy, Dr. George Skarvinko, Officer Chad Butler and Lieutenant Steve Elliott from the Southington Police Department. She said that it came to our attention last week that the Red Ribbon Rally has been scheduled for the same night. She said that when we scheduled the forum back in August, there was nothing else going on according to the town calendar. She said that flyers have been handed out at the middle school and high school open houses, it's on the STEPS website, the STEPS newsletter as well as on the Wheeler Clinic and Clearinghouse Facebook pages.

Heather stated that there have also been ads and press releases on the event. Heather said that Sue Saucier will talk to the superintendent about getting the information out to his district email list. Kelly said that we are hoping for a good turnout and perhaps make it a series with different topics in the future.

Youth Council & Committee:

Committee Members reported the following:

1. Trever Rogers reported that over the summer, Kelly called him and asked if he would help do compliance check operations for the Stratford Coalition. Trever said that he had been wanting to do this for a while and it was really awesome and exciting. Trever said that he and his Mom went down to Stratford and he and another underage youth were sent into multiple bars to order a Bud Light in a bottle. He said that out of 6 establishments, three served to them after checking their IDs (which were real and stated he is 17 years old). Trever said that even he doesn't think that he looks 21 and his ID has a stripe on it that says under 18 and under 21 so it is very easy to read. His ID is also vertical and not horizontal. After Trever left, the police returned with a summons.
2. Morgan Maccione reported that the Youth Committee handed out water bottles last Saturday and thanked the people for using the bike path and staying healthy. She said that this coming Sunday, they will be making posters for the Red Ribbon Rally and they will represent STEPS there. She said that on Friday, November 6th they will be handing out pompoms at the last home football game, thanking fans for cheering on their team.
3. Sarah Lamb reported that this past Friday, Youth Council members put up signs around the Apple Harvest requesting people refrain from smoking.

4. Carson Stifel reported that this past Sunday, STEPS was in the Apple Harvest Parade with Zing Zumba Fitness and Valentine the Clown. Carson said it was really fun and a great way to show people a healthy way to be.

ABC Committee:

Denise Sicotte, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Denise said that there is ABC team leadership meeting tomorrow to create the agenda for the first meeting on October 14th in from 7:30am to 9:00am at the Municipal Center. She said that they also have the Prevention Coordinator from Durham/Middlefield attending because they are interested in learning more about this initiative. Denise said that if any board members are interested in joining the meeting, they are welcome to attend.

New Business:

1. Rachel Wache asked for permission to do the wall calendar drive again for the different Veteran Hospitals in the area as well as the nursing facilities in Southington. Rachel said that she is wondering if there is a way to get the students more involved in the school and if we can place boxes in the schools as well. She said that last year we had collection boxes the YMCA, library, town hall, municipal building. Nancy said that they collected a lot at SHS last year.

Rachel said that last year she had the idea to collect and donate these calendars for the residents so they can keep track of the days. She said that it means a lot to the veterans to know that people in the community are thinking about them.

Nancy asked if we can send the flyer out to the schools. Kelly said she would bring fliers to the ABC Champion meeting next week.

2. Rachel said that she also spoke to people at the armory and they would like to do the Christmas party again this year for the military and their families. She said that once again they are having a hard time with the money for it ó she would like to ask STEPS students to be involved again this year to help out with serving and the kids. Sue Saucier asked that she get the date as soon as possible so we can ask people and have the details. Tom Gallo suggested talking to the PBA or police union for a possible donation as well.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Southington YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick