



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Youth Commission

*Consider:*

*Who benefits? Who is burdened?*

*Who does not have a voice at the table?*

*How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, March 20, 2019

5:00 PM Middleton Youth Center, 2429 Clark Street, Middleton

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Middleton Youth Center, 2429 Clark Street, Middleton

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 5 - KEMA WILLIAMS, KELLY DANNER, ANALIESE EICHER, Chair MARCIA MORALES, and Chair ADAM FEARING

**Absent** 3 - Chair MEGHAN BENSON, FRANCESCA MASCIOPINTO, and Chair KHADDY JARJOU

Others present: Gabriella Hinahara, Middleton Youth Center director, and Youth Center participants who all attend Kromrey Middle School: Magnus Goudy, Ethan Kouta-Lopatey, Evan Wright, Ava Ayers, Daija Stevens-Williams, Amya Severson, Kayah McCants, Savannah Lewis, Nevaeh Jackson, Jannet Munos and Jasmine Shoates

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2018 MIN-450](#) 2019\_0116 Youth Commission Minutes

**Attachments:** [2019\\_0116 YC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by FEARING, seconded by DANNER, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** 5 - WILLIAMS, DANNER, EICHER, MORALES and FEARING

**Absent:** 3 - BENSON, MASCIOPINTO and JARJOU

#### C. Action Items

#### D. Presentations

1. Tour and overview of Middleton Youth Center

*Commissioners received a tour of the facility and an overview of middle school youth programs, interacting with student participants throughout the tour.*

## 2. Listening session with Middleton Youth Center youth participants

*Introductions made then Eicher shared an overview of the Youth Commission and the purpose of the listening sessions. MYC youth had received the listening session outline prior to the meeting to allow youth time to prepare their thoughts and answers—which they had done. The session was conversational with Commissioners asking follow-up questions and youth sharing their thoughts and experiences related to MYC, their community and school. The youth identified many benefits to participating in services at MYC including access to a variety of program activities including field trips and mini-courses on robotics, gaming, social justice, sports and cooking. They have opportunities to create and develop mini-courses that expand their creativity and confidence. It's a safe space with supportive staff who listen and help them problem-solve. They make friends and improve social skills.*

*Positives about their community, neighborhood and school include a feeling that most people are nice and they have access to a pool, parks and other fun places. School offers STEM and STEAM opportunities, clubs for youth of color like Black Girl Magic, a Black Student Union and a club for Latinx students. They have a new building and field trips. Concerns related to school and community includes fear of "crime", a sense of vulnerability because of there is so much glass in the school building. They reported that their peers use the "n" word with little or no consequence making them feel unsafe and bad. The listening session ended due to bus transportation needs. Gabrielle Hinahara followed up with the students who offered the following suggestions to make school safer/better:*

- They should stop bullies*
- Less glass windows*
- More hall monitors*
- Teachers need to listen to students more*
- Let kids play in the snow at recess*
- Add more teachers of color (of ALL races), so we could talk to them about things w/o a fear of offending them (like I am with white teachers)*
- Teachers need to hold kids accountable when they say something offensive*
- Teachers need to talk to students about the offensive/racist things that kids say at school and educate them about it*
- Kids should stand up for each other more*
- Put posters up*

[2018](#)  
[PRES-095](#)

Youth Commission Guidance to Listening Sessions

**Attachments:** [YC Guidance to Listening Sessions](#)

## E. Reports to Committee

**1. DCYA Research Summit planning update**

*Bettin reported that three planning meetings have been held. The committee opted to reserve Union South—changing the previously identified venue due to break-out room availability and food costs. Target audience size remains 300. Date of the Summit is November 8, 2019. Bettin noted that seven researchers have confirmed attending, but have not submitted proposals yet. Morales noted that marketing and reservation software is being considered now. Danner created a web page that is live. The next planning meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 5:30 p.m. A general program outline has been proposed and will be vetted as researcher reservations are finalized.*

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

1. April 17, 5:45 – 7:45 p.m. at United Way of Dane County. Agenda: Approve the By Youth For Youth grant recommendations and hold a listening session with BYFY and YGP youth
2. May 15 at 5:30 at the City-County Building, Room 354. Agenda: Debrief youth listening sessions and begin to formulate recommendations. Incoming DCDHS Director, Shawn Tessmann will be in attendance.

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda****H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law****I. Adjourn**

6:30 p.m.

*Recorded by Connie Bettin 242-6422 (WI Relay 711)*