



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?

Monday, July 22, 2019

5:30 PM McFarland Youth Center, 5114 Farwell St., McFarland

McFarland Youth Center, 5114 Farwell St., McFarland

A. Call To Order

Present 7 - Chair MEGHAN BENSON, Vice Chair FRANCESCA MASCIOPINTO, KELLY DANNER, MARCIA MORALES, ADAM FEARING, KARI STAMPFLI, and SHRIYA KATA

Absent 3 - KEMA WILLIAMS, ANALIESE EICHER, and KHADDY JARJOU

Others present: Megan Beckler, Managing Director McFarland Youth Center and students Remi Burns, Gailee Brungess, Hope Elliot, Nick Altenberg, Phenix Roundy, Brooke Clark V, Violet Gletty-Syoen, Cassidy Miller, Evan Circum, Mia Drewes and Abby Taylor

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2019](#) 2019_0515 Youth Commission Minutes
[MIN-132](#)

Attachments: [2019_0515 YC Minutes](#)

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

Ayes: 7 - BENSON, MASCIOPINTO, DANNER, MORALES, FEARING, STAMPFLI and KATA

Absent: 3 - WILLIAMS, EICHER and JARJOU

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

1. Tour and overview of McFarland 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 McFarland Youth Center participants

Listening session with MYC youth participants occurred in two separate groups given the number of students. In each group, introductions were made and students received an overview of the Youth Commission and the purpose of the listening sessions. MYC students 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 the Center, their community and school.

Students identified many benefits to participating in services at MYC including the opportunity to build friendships, to participate in new and engaging activities, to do volunteer service, and to learn new and different skills. The Center is a safe and non-judgmental place to get support and guidance from staff related to peer or school challenges. The Center provided a grief support group in response to the death of a peer in the past year. “Everybody is a counselor for everyone else.” The Center is accepting of diverse identities offering boys and girls groups and non-binary student can choose to attend either.

Positives about their community include opportunities to volunteer at the library and through 4H. One group identified that the community and school were welcoming places with a pool, cafes and parks. School offers activities (band and choir) and access to new technology and a sense of safety.

One group raised concerns that at times the community seems less accepting or inclusive of youth and feel that they are not respected as middle schoolers. This group also raised concerns that issues at school don’t get resolved in a timely manner and that teachers can’t pay attention to everything that is going on in the classroom. One group felt that having more counselors and not relying on the on-line reporting system may help. The other group felt that their concerns have been voiced with little change and that they may share their concerns with district administrators.

Regarding having a “voice”, one group felt resoundingly that they had a voice at MYC and an opportunity to vent, problem-solve and had input in Center decisions. The other group noted that some have a voice and others felt that you get asked to leave the center for behavioral reasons and feel “voiceless.” Both groups felt that they have little voice in community or the school because there are so many people.

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

Youth Commission Guidance to Listening Sessions

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

E. Reports to Committee

1. DCYA Research Planning Summit Update

Bettin provided an update. Planning is on track.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next YC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday August 21 at 5:30. GSAFE and/or Centro will be invited to hold listening sessions.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

7:00 p.m.

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