



## **Youth Council Meeting Minutes - February 8, 2023**

### **Item 1 | Call to Order**

- Vanessa Westlake called the meeting into order at 11:51 a.m.

### **Item 2 | Attendance**

- Ahmed Othman, Alla Othman, Dhruvi Upmanyu, Juliana Spaulding, Madeline Naper, Maya Palic, Olivia Wall, Paige Arkinstall, Sadie Lominac, Sofia Panighetti, Thomas Berinato.

### **Item 3 | Public Comment**

### **Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2023**

- Clerk Ali Atoui was absent; the minutes will be presented at the subsequent meeting.

### **Item 5 | Liaison Spotlight: Veterans Services**

- Veterans Services liaison Dhruvi Upmanyu gave a Powerpoint presentation to the Youth Council on what his liaison's board has been doing recently and what he has been involved in.
- He detailed how to communicate with the Veterans Service Office, and some recent activities, such as the Wreaths Across America distribution event and the coffee social at the Quannapowitt Yacht Club.
- He also detailed several upcoming activities, including the annual trip to Florida to visit memorial sites and monuments, combating drug issues, and how to get involved and reach out.
- Catherine Dhingra noted that she spoke with David Mangan about giving another presentation to the Youth Council, in order to begin work in conjunction with the Youth Council to spread awareness about both the veteran community and opportunities for young people. These opportunities included summer camps and providing information for those interested in joining the military.

### **Item 6 | Liaison Updates**

- Juliana Spaulding gave an update on some of the projects Safe Streets has been working on recently.



- Ahmed Othman gave an update on his recent work with the School Committee, particularly with the role of student representative. He has worked with School Committee member Kevin Fontanella to reform the position, and he has had success in reforming the positioning in regards to the district and school administration. These reforms to the positions include having the student representatives come to meetings in person (rather than solely via Zoom), making 4-5 student representatives including one underclassman representative, be allowed to have a seat at the table and participate in debate and discussion (without being able to vote).
- Madeline Naper stated that she will be giving an update to the Town Council on Monday, and questioned if there was anything additional that should be included in her presentation. Vanessa Westlake responded by saying that inclusion of the social media work Ali Atoui has done in conjunction with Jenn McDonald as well as Dhruvi Upmanyu's work with Veterans Services would be beneficial.

#### **Item 7 | Snow Angels Project**

- Vanessa Westlake said that Snow Angels grew by a few members; Catherine Dhingra said that she had to volunteer Youth Council members to shovel the houses that didn't have volunteers. Paige Arkinstall added that she spoke with Guidance Counselor Ms. Delory and she reposted the list of houses in need to the National Honors Society and jobs and volunteers Google Classrooms.

#### **Item 8 | Communications Sub Committee Update**

- Madeline Naper provided the update on the subcommittee, specifically about using Instagram Reels to highlight the Wakefield Memorial High School prior to the special election to inform people about what it is like to learn and work there.
- She also stated that the subcommittee will be working on voter registration, teen dating violence awareness, and an improved Youth Interest Survey to be sent out to the student body.
- Catherine Dhingra asked if the subcommittee was working with Wakefield Alliance Against Violence for the teen dating violence awareness posts, and followed up by saying they would like to work with them on this, alongside working with them in March for white ribbon month.
- Madeline Naper said that she was able to learn how to link the Facebook and Instagram accounts, and Vanessa Westlake said that she added her as an admin to the account, so she should have access to sign in.

#### **Item 9 | Announcements**

#### **Item 10 | Determine Next Meeting Date**

- A Doodle Poll will be sent out the first week back from school vacation.

#### **Item 11 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated**

- The merchandise for the Youth Council has been ordered, and will be distributed shortly.

**Item 12 | Adjournment**

- Paige Arkinstall motioned to adjourn, with Alla Othman seconding. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.