

Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2019; 5:30 PM

Youth & Family Services Offices,

322 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Retired Educator, Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Nursing Board Representative</p> <p>Absent Members: Jennifer Welsh, Chair; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Sharon Tiezzi, Member-at-large</p> <p>Student Representatives: Joe Bradley, Carissa Schilke</p> <p>Absent Student Representatives: Kyle Wisialowski</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	H. McNeil called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No one from the public was present.
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion made by M. Rafferty to approve the minutes of Tuesday, September 10, 2019 as presented.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by L. Castro and approved.</p>
V. Chairman's Comments	In J. Welsh's absence, M. Rafferty offered feedback re: CommUNITY Day. Suggested having more diversity in events for various community members (example: bingo for Seniors), questioned if some of the vendors were aware of the purpose of the event as some of the items sold seemed out of place; pleased to see good interaction between kids, the general public and OSPD.
VI. Director's Report for 10/01/2019	<p>CommUNITY Day H. McNeil thought the day went well overall. Acknowledged that if it is done next year a deeper effort needs to start earlier in hopes to get more students involved. This year's "Courage Wall" was to inspire, encourage people to be vulnerable and to raise awareness of the fears that hold us back from living big, bold, authentic lives. It was met with some resistance to participate (specifically among men to write on). Last year's "Unity Pole" was an OSHS senior project which brought out more students to be involved. The public was invited to define themselves and then celebrate the differences that tie us together and keep us unified.</p> <p>Anti-Vaping Collaboration with OSPD/OSPS Red Ribbon Week: Send a Message, Stay Drug-Free On Oct 22@ OSHS, there will be a student-led assembly with students from E3 and Superintendent/Principal Advisory Board members to discuss vaping. OSPD will offer amnesty on Vaping Buyback Days (10/23, 10/25, 10/30) to encourage teens to hand in their vapes. In return, gift certificates to local businesses will be distributed. L. Castro suggested having something at OSMS as well for the upper middle-schoolers (7th/8th grade).</p>

	<p>State Funding Cuts S. Consoli will attend Nov mtg. to address some of the issues. CRT cut funding- as demand grows, resources diminish. She will be having sign-ups for Energy Assistance this month. L. Castro suggested contacting Kathy Bai to perhaps partner with some of the school social workers to assist.</p> <p>Prevention Corps. B. Shah completed her internship with us. While the opioid epidemic is still a serious concern, vaping has taken center stage.</p> <p>In-School Programming Lunch Bunches underway, Zen Time (3rd & 5th grade) to begin</p> <p>Central AC/Paving Central AC was recently installed. Experienced a leak in the basement which brought on some mildew/unhealthy air quality but was quickly caught and remedied. Paving of driveway was delayed but will soon be done in conjunction with Fire Dept.'s driveway. A large dead tree was cut down. Possible suggestions discussed for an Eagle Scout project (i.e. gazebo?) in the open area.</p> <p>Other OSHS Student Khushi Patel will be joining YFS Commission. Brittany Eckert hired as new Program Coordinator.</p>
VII. Old Business	Nothing to report.
VIII. New Business	<p>Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members Next YFS Commission meeting scheduled for November 12, 2019@ 5:30PM</p>
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by M. Rafferty to adjourn the meeting at 6:05PM. The motion was seconded by J. Paradis and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk