



## Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – June 14, 2021

**Attendance:** John Loughnane, Danielle Sutton, Mary Ellen LaRose, Julia Ritzenberg, Daniel Tryder, Jeremy Stern, Chrissy McKenney, Jan Midiri, Nicola Midiri, Paul Marino, Brian Cole, Sophia Hebert, Josh Minsky, Diana Martucci, David Russell, Trish Tucke, Sarah Baroud, Melissa DePina, Brad Pindel, Eli Wasserman, Ethan Blonder, and Maeve Hutton

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened via Zoom Webinar and was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. **Introduction of New Student Board Members:** John introduced and welcomed new student board members.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Jan and seconded by Trish to accept the 5/24/21 minutes. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

III. **Director's Report:** Danielle thanked the graduating student board members for their service to the board over the last two years. Board chair, John Loughnane thanked the board, as a whole for their participation and input this year.

Danielle thanked Sarah Baroud, Clinical Coordinator for her service to the Town of Westwood over the last six years as Clinical Coordinator and wished her the best going forward.

### IV. Old Business:

**Clinical Coordinator Opening:** Danielle thanked the human resources department for moving quickly to fill the Clinical Coordinator opening. Six candidates were offered screening interviews and from that the department will now offer four candidates more in-depth interviews. After these interviews are complete, we will conduct one additional round of interviews for final candidates. The plan is to have someone in place by late summer.

### V. New Business:

**Wentworth Hall Update** Danielle reported that work in the building is winding down. A final punch list of items is being worked on by the contractor. The furniture budget is in the final stages of being approved and then the department will meet with WB Mason to choose furnishings.

**Recognize A Youth Award:** Mary Ellen explained to new board members the background of the yearly award. Over the next month the Rotary Club will review the nominations and choose recipients. A ceremony honoring the recipients will be held in the fall.

**Board Member Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:** David made a motion to accept the slate of officers for the executive committee. Diana Martucci seconded the motion and the board then voted to approve Jan Midiri and Mary-Carol Waters as chair and vice-chair, respectively.

## VI. Community Liaisons:

**Community Chest:** Danielle gave a brief overview of how Community Chest serves residents with financial need. The board is accepting new board members.

**Early Childhood Council:** Danielle gave an overview of the council. WY&FS collaborated with the ECC on Storywalks in three locations in town; which will be in place till the end of June.

**Food Pantry:** Trish spoke about how pantry clients will begin shopping in person once again in August. The pantry is currently piloting a program with Johnny's Fresh, a produce company. Boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered once a month to clients that enroll. Highland Glen apartments covered the cost of boxes for everyone in buildings including many pantry clients. This summer the pantry in coordination with Westwood Public Schools will be giving grocery gift cards to Westwood students on free and reduced lunch.

**Police Department:** Brad noted that he has been visiting wellness classes over the course of the last few months to talk about substance abuse issues

**Westwood Cares** - Danielle described the group's mission for education around substance abuse. The group is looking to get up and running this upcoming school year.

## Schools Update:

**Westwood High School:** Brian reported that the last day of school is this Wednesday. The Girls Lacrosse is 18-0 and headed to the playoffs. The All Night Grad Party was a success with the vast majority of seniors attending.

**Thurston Middle School:** Christy mentioned that the PTO brought in and paid for an ice cream truck visit for each grade level including teachers. Next school year Thurston will be on a new bell schedule with a 10 day rotating block schedule and the additional of a WIN (What I need Block), support block. Classrooms will be restructured over the summer. Sixth grader will move to the modular wing and will not have to travel as far from class to class.

**Elementary:** Christy spoke about the Girls on the Run program for upper elementary students at Sheehan that she along with another teacher and members of the WHS girls track teams are running this spring. The program focuses on confidence, self-esteem and friendship building and culminates with a 5K run on the last day. The hope is to expand the program to additional elementary schools this fall.

VII. **Public Comment:** None

VIII. **Adjournment** - The meeting was called to adjournment at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose