

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday / November 14, 2023
7:00 pm

Meeting Place: Memorial Town Hall

OPEN MEETING

1. David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 11/14/2023 to order at 7:04 pm.
2. In attendance were: D. Buller, A. Aron, G. McGrimley, C. McGrady, J. Hession, K. Yahara, J. Yorke, J. Rogers, K. Dess, R. McMillian, R. Xeller, A. Symonds, T. Rizzo, and MYFS staff: S. Cochran, M. Sierra & L. Michaud.
Absent were: K. Rasimas, B. Skudder, S. Snyder, S. Murphy and N. Hughes
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of prior minutes from 10/10/2023. Motion to approve made by R. Xeller and 2nd motion made by J. Rogers. Motion passed, with 2 abstentions. Motion carries and approved.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Correspondence – L. Michaud read thank you correspondence from the Donofrio Family.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Scott informed the Board that the Mad Dash was rescheduled to the Spring, and that we had a successful Trunk or Treat.
8. S. Cochran shared that the Country School in Madison invited him as a part of a panel discussion, for Tech Talk, which will take place on November 15, 2023 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm at the Elmore Library and open to parents in the public. The discussion will focus on how to navigate social media and affectively monitor kids. J. Rogers asked about the effectiveness of the program on bullying on social media and S. Cochran responded that “kids are having trouble getting off devices, there’s some inappropriate content, and they’re trying to educate parents because technology is designed to get people hooked”. R. McMillian urged everyone to “keep reinforcing it to the kids”.
9. S. Cochran mentioned that conducting the biannual Search Institute Survey at the high school on 10/25 went well. We are still looking at the data, and we will share the results, along with the video prompt that accompanied the survey, at the next Board Meeting.
10. S. Cochran responded to a question from last months meeting regarding how much money Social Services has moved into the community. A total of \$75,017 was

provided to qualifying Madison residents last FY. Of that total, \$62,000 came in the form of donations from community organizations such as Neighbor 2 Neighbor, The Rotary Club, The Exchange Club & the Jaycees.

11. D. Buller brought up the “no phones during school policy” at the high school and T. Rizzo said that “it was heavily enforced in the beginning, however now it’s routine, and that kids are not using the phones as much, and relating with each other much more”, and that he “feels nothing but good things about this new policy”. He also mentioned that teachers are actively watching out for air pods and because of that, the use of them in school has been drastically cut. We discussed that Principal Salutari implemented this so that kids would not only focus more on their education, but also start relating to each other more in person.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Treasurer’s Report – Andrea Aron

13. A. Aron asked for a motion to approve the donations. Motion to approve made by J. Rogers and 2nd motion made by K. Yahara. Motion passed unanimously.
14. A. Aron spoke about the Sunshine Fund. She will collect the funds, or they can be brought to L. Michaud at MYFS.
15. R. Xeller questioned MYFS preparedness with heat assistance from Neighbor 2 Neighbor, as he reported that people will be getting very little from the state due to the large amount of people applying for help. S. Cochran reported that MYFS continues to be in consistent contact with N2N to stay on top of the needs.
16. J. Rogers asked if we had a liaison at N2N and S. Cochran explained that M. Fahey speaks with L. Heflin.

Staff Presentation – Marisa Sierra, Parent Support Counselor

17. S. Cochran introduced M. Sierra and explained a little about the history of the SCOPE Grant/Program (School Community Outreach Program Exchange). S. Cochran detailed that this is a part-time position temporarily expanded to full-time with ARPA supplement, and explained the challenges of the position.
18. M. Sierra gave her presentation and shared some things about herself both personally and professionally. Marisa spoke about her SCOPE, Zones of Regulation and Moms on the Move programs, as well as her outpatient therapy clients, and the hours. The SCOPE Program involves a referral from a teacher and offers 8-10 free sessions, as funded by the SCOPE Grant. If clients wish to continue with MYFS after the free sessions, they can continue as an outpatient client.
19. J. Yorke asked what triggers referrals from teachers and also asked if an officer can give referrals to the SCOPE Program, since he has responded to police calls

where parent support may help. M. Sierra clarified the referrals would need to go through a school with parents' permission, and typically when something is identified in a youth pertaining social emotional functioning. Marisa gave J. Yorke the names of people to contact if he wanted to suggest a referral.

20. S. Cochran impressed upon the desire to make Marisa's position a permanent full-time position and stated that he plans to seek approval in next year's budget.

Student Update

21. T. Rizzo reported that N. Hughes and her team won 2-0 and they are moving forward to play in the State Championship game.
22. T. Rizzo stated that the high school survey took approximately 35-40 minutes to complete and is aware the DHHS Student Leadership group will be one of the student groups that will be sought for feedback. Trip shared that Mr. Salutari is aware of the results from the survey, and that he spoke with the Student Liaisons re the data point "only 30% of students believe that the school cares about them". Board conversation ensued re the survey questions that resulted in that data point, possible reasons for the students to report as they did, and how that data point has measured in previous surveys.
23. R. Xeller asked if MYFS will share the results with DHHS students via schoolwide assembly and S. Cochran felt it would likely be best to share in smaller group discussions, and such methods to share the results are being considered and will be discussed with MPS Administrators.
24. T. Rizzo. Reported that "the school year has been terrific". The seniors have already turned in their early applications to colleges, as November 15th is the deadline. The high school exam schedule has been moved up to before Thanksgiving, as they will be taking exams starting on Friday November 17th, and then Monday the 20th and Tuesday the 21st. D. Buller pointed out that it does add to student stress prior to the holiday (more of a "stress transplant") and it shortens the trimester, but it clears the trimester before the holiday for students to rest and focus on their families. T. Rizzo also pointed out that previous to this year, the week of exams following Thanksgiving would also overlap with the start of winter sports, so it also helps for that reason.
25. T. Rizzo reported that the visit from the group of German students was now done and that N. Hughes intends to share more feedback at the next board meeting.

The Director's Report – S. Cochran

26. S. Cochran spoke about heating assistance and how a new program called “Within Reach” would be able to help people who are within 20% of the income cutoff guideline. R. McMillian donated a check for \$2,000 on behalf of the Jaycees, which will be able to help 4 families with a single time assistance at \$500/each. Ryan suggested if we can get 6 organizations to donate \$500 each, we would reach our goal of \$5,000.
27. S. Cochran spoke about Dalio's report on “disconnected youth”, which talks about the statewide issue on the high number of youth and the impact for youth who either dropped out of school, or graduated and are not working or in college.
28. S. Cochran reported that the Academy Project is continuing through the “value engineering phase,” and made the Board aware of comments made on social media related to the project in general and MYFS's inclusion in the future building.

Liaison Report – Lieutenant J. Yorke, Madison Police Department

29. J. Yorke reported there is a food drive at Stop and Shop on Friday November 17, the Turkey Trot is on Thanksgiving November 23, and their Toy Drive has already started.

Chairperson's Comment – David Buller, Board Chair

30. D. Buller informed us that a strategic plan draft is on the town website and it is a high-level document to drive strategic and tactical plans over the next 10 years.

Open Discussion

31. R. McMillian asked about the Day of Giving

32. Adjournment — Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next meeting: December 12, 2023, 7:00 pm at Memorial Town Hall, upper level

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Michaud
Administrative Assistant
Madison Youth and Family Services