

Youth Services Committee Meeting

November 2nd 2016

*We did not host a traditional meeting this month, so meeting minutes deviate from the normal template.

Meeting called to order at: 6:13 PM

In attendance: John Williams, Anna S., George B., Ashley S., Marge T., Willie M., Tom B., Kim F., Dick B., Princess G., Carol Y.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Recap: At our last meeting the committee discussed an article Principal LeeAndra Khan of Brooks Middle School wrote in the Catalyst. They wanted to have the opportunity to meet with her and have a discussion about equity, restorative justice and also to learn more about the group work Tianna Hill (Oak Park Township Youth Interventionist) and Princess Ganesh (Oak Park Township Youth Services Intern) are leading.

The discussion began with everyone on the committee introducing themselves and explaining how and why they are involved with the Youth Services Committee. Principal Khan then provided the committee with some background information about herself and shared her path from a career in Engineering to becoming a Principal.

During several meetings between John and Principal Khan, questions about conducting some Peace Circles and training about 70 staff members came up. The committee was interested in seeing how their funding and support helps Principal Khan become successful in meeting the goals she is setting for the school to better the community.

Principal Khan's priorities included;

1. Capacity building – Making sure that all staff feel comfortable leading and participating in mentoring.
2. Mentoring – “Train the trainer.” Train early adopters in peer-mediation and cargo circles who can then work and lead their team. Using the school's team structure by getting Teacher Leaders to facilitate adult learning.
3. Set Clear Metrics – Have clear goals of what they are looking to achieve so that at the end of the year, they have clear outcomes and results.
4. Create Partnerships – Principal Khan emphasized how important she feels it is to build a seamless relationship between the school and the Township. She wants to make sure that this feels like an extension of the school, not as though an outside source is coming in.

Overall, this meeting allowed the committee to ask frank questions about how they could help support Principal Khan's goals for Brooks, her plan for implementation and also how any of the other programs the committee funds could be helpful to students at Brooks. As the committee gears up for another funding cycle, they are really taking the time to evaluate all the different programs (both current contract requests and possible future contract requests) to see how well these programs support the committee set priorities of literacy, substance abuse prevention/Education/Early Intervention and job readiness.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:16 PM