



CITY OF WESTFIELD, MA
YOUTH COMMISSION MINUTES

September 19, 2016

Danahey called the regular meeting of the Youth Commission to order at 6:05 p.m., in Conference Room 315, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT
 MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT
 STAFF ABSENT

Pam Krzyzek
 William Cameron
 Peter Chrisanthopoulos
 Dennis Hall
 David Roundy
 Emily LaFond
 William Scott
 Amber Danahey

GUESTS: Susan Dargie (WPS)
Steve Hinck (observer)
Amy Porter (WEN)



1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes from August 8, 2016. Hall motioned, Krzyzek second.

2. SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

WHS – student council elections, clubs starting to meet, fall sports

STM – mission trip to Jamaica announced, fall sports started

PFHS – merger (Holyoke Catholic, Cathedral) to create Pope Francis High School

9/29/16 – Westfield Day at Big E

3. OPIOID TASK FORCE UPDATES

Susan Dargie – Guest speaker, Director of Curriculum for WPS. Here to talk about folding drug discussions into school curriculum. Mrs. Dargie discussed ways in which the school department is working with students to help and raise awareness. Currently there is assistance in the schools to work with students with trauma to help them stay off the path to addiction. They are working towards resilience in the curriculum (“Success Highways” for youth and adults), as well as a youth mental health first aid.

An idea that was suggested from the Youth Commission involved working with elementary students to build self-esteem so that they can have the resilience and tools to say no and resist drugs. Maybe introduce the drug discussion in 5th grade. Bring older students (8th graders) in to talk to the 5th graders about middle school and drugs.

Film “If Only” was recommended to Mrs. Dargie. She was going to try and take a look to determine if it sends right message.