

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU



Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**Mansfield YSB Advisory Board
Minutes**

Tuesday January 12, 2010
12:00pm at Mansfield Town Hall
Conference Room B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Frank Perrotti, Co-Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Senior Social Worker
Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services
Eileen Griffin, Social Worker
Jerry Marchon, Police Officer
Jay O'Keefe, Parks & Recreation
Candace Morrell, Assistant Principle MMS
Jen Abele, EO Smith Student
Amber Hoyt, EO Smith Student
Lauren DiGrazia, Graduate MSW Intern

Guests: Matt Hart (Town Manager), Jeff Smith (Former Head of Finance for the town of Mansfield), Teri Hebert (Special Education Teacher), Sandy Baxter (Mansfield School Readiness Coordinator), & Anton V. (MMS student)

Proceedings

- *Meeting called to order* at 12:09pm by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris
- December 15, 2009 meeting minutes were accepted and approved

- *Student Report:* Anton V. (MMS student), Jen Abele (E.O. Smith student), & Amber Hoyt (E.O Smith Student)
 - All three students spoke about their individual experiences and interactions with the Youth Service Bureau.

- *Frank Perrotti's (Co-Chair) Report:* Challenge
 - Frank spoke about how he has been involved with the Challenge program for 33 years.
 - This program teaches motivation and self-discipline.
 - Frank was able to obtain \$4,500.00 from Bruce Silva, the Regional 19 Superintendent, and Fred Baruzzi, a Mansfield Superintendent.
 - The \$4,500.00 and the \$820.00 raised by alumni of the program make up the \$5,000.00 deficit in the Challenge budget for this year.

-It was decided by the board to let Chuck Leavens, E.O. Smith Counselor, know that the money needed to run Challenge this year was raised. However, that this was a one time funding and that the Challenge program needs to have plans for future years.

-Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services, thanked Frank for the fundraising.

- *Response from Matt Hart, Town Manager*

-Matt Hart responded to the concern about Challenge. He offered up a solution of charging a partial tuition for families that could afford it and a fee waiver for those who could not afford it.

-Kevin Grunwald expressed the concern that was brought up by the board in regard to this suggestion. The board was afraid a fee may exclude some families from applying.

-Jerry Marchon, Police Officer, wanted to know if the \$5,000.00 not cut from the YSB budget last year was at risk to be cut this year

-Matt Hart began to discuss the budget. He explained that inter-government revenue will continue to drop for the next two years and that 43% of the overall revenue from the town comes from inter-government revenue.

-Matt Hart has asked his directors to come into the budget discussions with a flat budget from this year. The strategy he is taking is as follows:

1. Try to control overhead and lower costs
2. Revenue diversification
 - a. Where can we charge fees for services?
3. Enhance tax base
 - a. Where can we grow the grand list?
 - b. Development in the town (i.e. Storrs Center and Four Corners)

-Matt Hart suggested in regards to Challenge to reach out to the Board of Education for a long term option and recommend tuition ideas

-Matt Hart stressed that the town's economic picture has not improved

- *Response from Jeff Smith, Former Head of Finance for the Town of Mansfield*

-Jeff Smith expressed that this conversation was bigger than Challenge that it is important for the advisory board to look at YSB as not getting the resources they need to be successful and that the YSB advisory board needed to look at the broader picture.

-He suggested getting the message of what the YSB does out there and to express the core service of this organization is to save kids.

-Jeff Smith also expressed how the money needed to be separated from the programs and that the YSB needs to define and market what they are about.

-This can be done by raising the YSB visibility.

- *New Business:*

- New Advisory Board Members*

- The Advisory board is recommending Jeff Smith, Former Head of Finance for the Town of Mansfield, and Teri Hebert, Special Education

Teacher, for appointment to the Youth Services board. Kevin Grunwald will submit a letter to the Committee on Committees requesting review and approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

Minutes submitted by Graduate MSW Intern, Lauren DiGrazia