

Sacramento County Youth Commission
Tomorrow's Leaders Leading Today

Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2009

Chair: Naomi Endsley
Vice Chair: Cynthia Tsay
Secretary: Rachel Anderson

Attendance:

District 1	Stephanie Taylor	Absent
	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
District 2	Cynthia Tsay	Absent
	Kiki Vo	X
	Salote Umufuke	Absent
District 3	Megan Alcalay	Absent
	Elizabeth Eggert	Absent
	Christopher Eur	X
District 4	Naomi Endsley	X
	Rachel Anderson	X
	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
District 5	Harjot Hansra	X
	Joyce Lau	X
	Tyler MacKenzie	X

Advisor: Michele Watts

Guests: None

Agenda:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Commissioners made introductions. No new commissioners.

2. Announcements and Comments:

- Lynn Davis, our liaison for the Board of Supervisors, was asked to not take overtime due to budget issues. For this reason, she will not be returning to our meetings.
- Due to county budget cuts, commissioners should provide their own food and drink at meetings.

- Several commissioners have not received their October – December 2008 stipends. Michele will follow up on this issue.
- Saturday, March 28th from 10am – 12pm there is an event about graduation rates. The mayor will be there along with other educational organizations to discuss ways to improve graduation rates. Michele will send out an email reminder for this event.
- Brochures, including the Trade School Brochure, will be posted and up-to-date on the commission's website. Due to budget issues, printing is not possible right now.

3. Approve Minutes of February 9, 2009 Meeting

- Correction of Joyce's name on item #3 from "Joyce Tyler" to "Joyce Lau".
- Joyce motioned to approve the February 9, 2009 minutes, and Christopher seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

4. Monitoring of Board of Supervisors Agendas

- January/February report by District 2 Commissioners:
 - Board of Supervisors gave permission to Camp Fire USA at Sac Sierra to initiate a council, teaching children independence, self-reliance, and other valuable life skills.
- February/March report by District 3 Commissioners.
 - Board of Supervisors approved proposition for child welfare initiative.
- March/April report assigned to District 4.

5. Graduation Rates Project Discussion

- All information gathered by commissioners should be given to Michele.
- Commissioners presented information:
 - Naomi: Community College approximately \$26/unit.
 - Kiki: Interviewed Healthy Start counselor. The counselor stressed the importance of family issues in graduation rates. Students may drop out due to pregnancy or pressure from parents.
 - Harjot: Discussed names and stories of people who were successful despite not graduating from high school (Tom Monigan, the founder of Domino's pizza; Ralph Lauren; Laurence Ellison of Oracle computers).
 - Chris: Research conducted by the National Dropout Prevention Center on reason for why students drop out showed that academic challenges and not seeing the importance of high school are two leading factors for why students drop out of high school. Systemic renewal, or early intervention, is extremely important (especially between the ages of 1-5). More information can be found at www.dropoutprevention.org.
 - Joyce: Programs such as Boys and Girls, YMCA, SAGE, and other programs help encourage students to complete high school. Most programs, however, are affiliated with a school or a school district.
- Commissioners decided to create a flowchart of what options students have after high school. The flowchart, and other projects to increase graduation rates, may

be most effective if presented to middle schools. Each commissioner was assigned an area of research for the flow chart.

- Joyce: Vocational and specialty schools.
- Michele: Feeder schools to high schools, especially the feeder middle schools into high schools where less than 80% of seniors graduate.
- Kiki: Salaries of different jobs given education background.
- Harjot: Brainstorm flowchart.
- Naomi: Educational and occupational options directly after graduating from high school.
- Rachel: Educational and occupational options directly after completing an undergraduate and graduate education.
- Christopher: Educational and occupational options after dropping out of high school.

6. New Project Proposal: Multicultural Book Festival for Young People (MBFYP)

- Chris has an appointment Wednesday with a contact at the Sacramento Public Library.
- Essay ideas: How is one culture different from another? This question asks writers to compare American culture with another culture within America.
 - Word Limit: approximately 800-1200 words.
 - Prizes for winner: gift certificate, certificate of recognition (good for resume for colleges).
 - Essay about culture, not endorsing a culture
 - Purpose is to promote understanding of cultures and increase tolerance. This tone should be set at the beginning of the contest.
- Commissioners discussed who should read the essays.
 - Have multiple people grade, Talk to Sac. Library and see how many people are available to help. Commissioners can also help.
- Book List
 - Two different reading lists: 1 for middle school, 1 for high school. Contestants will be graded separately depending on age group.
 - Commissioners should research a few books that investigate and involve culture. Email any book ideas to Chris.

7. Other Business

- Tyler is hosting an Easter Party at a park with his brother. All are welcome, but the commission as a whole cannot officially endorse the party or be involved due to the event's religious affiliation.

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items

- None

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.