



## **Minutes**

### **Town of Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB) Partnerships For Success (PFS) Committee Room 110—Birdseye Municipal Complex Monday, May 4, 2015**

**Attendance:** Greta Broneill, Nina Chanana, Anna Gasinski, Denise Keegam, Sean Kennedy, Tish Morrissey, James Olsen, Denique Weidema-Lewis, Philip Zetye

#### **Call to Order and Approval of March 2, 2015 Minutes**

Sean Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Patricia Morrissey made a motion to approve the March 30, 2015 meeting minutes. Greta Broneill seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

#### **Freshman Forum Debrief**

This year's Freshman Forum at Stratford High had nearly doubled the attendance of the 2014 Freshman Forum at Bunnell High School. The estimated attendance this year was 430 parents and students. The attendance of last year's forum was 275. A total of 141 parent and 144 student surveys were collected; 60% of surveys received were completed by Bunnell High School students and 40% were completed by Stratford High School students.

The Committee discussed what they liked and disliked about this year's forum, as well as improvements for next year's forum. Members agreed that the resource table drew a lot of attention and was a great addition this year. Some issues this year's forum faced were:

- Forum ended at 8:45 p.m.; instead of the planned 8:30 p.m.
- 6 presenters made timing very tight; no extra cushion time
- Raffle prizes at end; some families left before raffle
- Only half of the surveys were collected

Suggestions for next year's forum included:

- Run a contest for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to design Freshman Forum t-shirts in the Fall, which they will receive once they hand in their RSVP card.
- Provide an immediate reward for students and parents who hand in completed surveys the night of the forum. For example, candy bars.
- Use Advisory to get additional feedback from the students, and conduct follow up parent phone interviews for additional feedback from the families.
- Add to survey—rating of each speaker.

Nina Chanana suggested conducting parent follow up phone interviews for additional feedback in May. Some of the questions to ask for additional feedback, include:

- What motivated you to attend the Forum with your child?
- Was it worth your time? Why or why not?
- After seeing the Forum, has it prompt you to have a conversation with your child?
- Which speaker would you invite back next year?
- What was the most valuable piece of information in the folder?

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Olsen