

**Commission on the Status of Children & Youth**  
**December 19th, 2023**  
**5:30pm**

**Present:** Erin Reynolds, Katie Hopkins, Shatoiya Moss, and Tatiana Wheeler

**1. Introductions**

Meeting began at 5:36pm. The commission didn't have a quorum.

**2. New Business**

- A. **Black History Month Essay Contest** Shatoiya brought up the upcoming Black History Month Essay Contest that will take place in February. She did say that she would like the commission to be more involved in the essay contest. She added that there will be mixed representation of students. Following the contest, there will be a reception for the students.
  
- B. **Committee** Katie informed the commission that she is on a new committee for advising MCSC in the new highschool schedule. Katie asked the commission if they would be interested in finding a role in these discussions. Erin thinks it would be a great idea to have the CSCY host a listening session.
  
- C. **Highschool Reading Challenge** -Tatiana informed the commission that Heading Home is hosting a reading challenge at North and South High Schools centered around homelessness and poverty from November-January 31st. The challenge will end with a pizza party and raffle at each school for participating students.

**3. Old Business**

- A. **SWAGGER:** Erin and Katie informed Shatoiya that 2- 3 winning students didn't turn out. The commission discussed the idea of notifying winning students before the reception to ensure they'll be there. Erin added that in next year's SWAGGER event, the rubric should be included in the nomination form so that nominators know what is expected to determine eligible students. Toiya suggested an idea of implementing a mixed nomination form. For example, you could do a rating scale on specifics. Additionally, she suggested having a commissioner create a video about how people can write a strong nomination.

**B. Teen Commission Liaisons: (Tatiana)**

Katie said one of the Thriving Connections highschoolers is interested. Shatoiya suggested making a teen liaison seat as a S.W.A.G.G.E.R. award. Another idea that she gave for other S.W.A.G.G.E.R. levels is a book scholarship. The commission discussed the idea of having a teen liaison sit on the commission and having a commissioner engaging teens at school. The commission decided to wait to choose the model for teen engagement during the January meeting.

The commission discussed an idea of inviting school counselors to a lunch meeting to discuss opportunities for their teens. Erin agreed that having more direct outreach would be a great idea. She suggested even going to the schools directly. The commission decided to bring this to the January meeting to vote on.

Erin also suggested an idea to ask orgs to come to the commission to spread information about their youth serving organizations. Toiya suggested even hosting an event like an agency show and tell where there could be multiple orgs networking and learning. Erin offered to chair outreach for the commission. Katie said we should make an official vote in the January meeting.

- C. Read for the Record** Shatoiya reported that it went really well. Katie and Erin think the commission should keep this on the calendar.

**4. City Staff Liaison Report**

Shatoiya thanked everyone for moving on in her absence. She also shared photos of her baby boy! Black History Month Kick off Feb 1st, Black Market is the 17th, Black Gala the 24th , and Kick it (TBD). She has raised \$2,000+ in sponsorship for SWAGGER. She is working on getting additional sponsorships for the commission.

**5. Community Updates**

There weren't any community updates.

**6. Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 6:52p,.

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