

Legislative Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
July 18, 2007

Wednesday, July 18th, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Room 427, State House
Augusta, Maine

Youth Members and Legislative Members Present: Hannah Lennett, Litchfield; Grace Wright, Brunswick; Ian Engdahl, Winthrop; Alex Cornell du Houx, Brunswick; Rep. David Farrington, Gorham; Rep. Roberta Muse, Fryeburg; Sen. Paula Benoit, Phippsburg; Sen. Joseph Perry, Bangor.

Youth Members and Legislative Members Absent: Hannah Stein, Portland; Benjamin Goodman, Kennebunk; Dave O’Heir, Waterville; Brandon Mazer, Brunswick; Will Colan, Readfield; Claire Howard, South Portland; Heather Pratt, Chelsea; Henry Beck, Waterville; Mary Beth Moyer, Lewiston; Meg Richardson, Kents Hill.

Staff and Others Present: Glenn Nerbak, Distinguished Educator, Department of Education; James Carignan, Chair, Maine State Board of Education; David Stockford, Children’s Cabinet Senior Staff and Director of Special Services, Department of Education; Deborah Bicknell, Project Coordinator, Maine Youth Action Network; Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis; Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis; Brenna Byrne, Legislative Researcher, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

1. Meeting Called to Order, Approval of April 4th Meeting Summary

Rep. Farrington convened the second meeting of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council by requesting introductions from each member. Council members reviewed the April 4th meeting summary.

Motion: Ian Engdahl motioned and Alex Cornell du Houx seconded his motion to approve the April 4th meeting summary. The Council voted unanimously in favor of approving the April 4th meeting summary as submitted by staff.

2. Election of Youth Co-Chair

In the interest of moving forward with this piece of business, the Council agreed to proceed with nominating and voting in a youth Co-Chair. Prior to the meeting, Benjamin Goodman submitted a statement of interest in the position, which Brenna Byrne read aloud to the Council on his behalf. Hannah Stein and Brandon Mazer were named as two other youth members who had verbally expressed interest in the position at the April 4th meeting.

Motion:

Sen. Benoit made the motion to nominate Benjamin Goodman for the position of Co-Chair. This motion was seconded by Hannah Lennett. The Council voted unanimously in favor of electing Ben Goodman as the Council’s Co-Chair.

3. Briefing on Civic Engagement and Service Learning Opportunities in Maine

Glenn Nerbak, Distinguished Educator within the Department of Education reviewed with the Council the status of civic engagement and service learning opportunities around the state. Focusing on his objective to help teachers overcome barriers they often face in gaining access to adequate resources necessary to fulfill new requirements for social studies recently incorporated into the Maine Learning Results, Glenn spoke of three up-coming conferences:

- 1) No Citizen Left Behind – November 1st – USM, Portland.
- 2) No Citizen Left Behind – November 2nd – Morgan Hill Event Center, Hermon.
- 3) Follow up Conference in April for professional development.

Glenn reported to the Council that there are 7 schools currently involved in civic engagement projects and shared several examples of how schools are incorporating community benefits into their service learning projects. The council briefly discussed the distinction between civic engagement and service learning and how they can be combined to create meaningful experiences for youth. Rep. Farrington asked what role LYAC might play in helping Glenn with his work. Glenn stressed the value of LYAC's ability to diplomatically publicize these conferences, as well as civic engagement and service learning opportunities around the state to educators. He also welcomed member of the council to participate in the conferences, emphasizing the importance and effectiveness of student voices. The Council agreed to maintain on-going communication with Glenn and work closely to coordinate efforts in raising awareness about this issue.

4. Maine State Board of Education – Update

James Carignan, Chair of the Maine State Board of Education updated the Council on the status of the Board's efforts to develop criteria for appointing youth members to the State Board of Education – a direct result of recent legislation passed to allow student representation on the State Board of Education (LD151). The Board has been working closely with the Maine Youth Action Network to lay out a plan for determining a selection process, which has now been finalized. The Board will convene a conference of young people in Maine on August 14th at 9:30 a.m. at Bates College in the Muskie Building to address two basic questions:

- 1) What should the criteria be for the selection of student members to serve on the State Board of Education?
- 2) What should the structure of student engagement look like to ensure that student voices influence public policy in Maine?

Invitees have been either recommended by a teacher, principal or superintendent and/or have contacted the Board directly. James extended the invitation to participate in this conference to Council members. The Council asked James to review the role of the State Board. Council members discussed and debated the issue of criteria appropriate for student service on the State Board, including the importance of candidates having a strong background in community service, the relative importance of academic performance (i.e. GPA requirements), peer recommendations in addition to teacher recommendations, school attendance, and qualities that reflect dedication given the high level nature of commitment the position involves. Council members also discussed the possibility for students who are selected to receive school credit for their service. Rep. Farrington indicated he planned on attending and would speak on behalf of the Council but strongly encouraged Council youth members to attend.

5. Maine Youth Action Network - Annual Peer Leadership Conference

Deb Bicknell, Project Director for the Maine Youth Action Network reviewed the history of the relationship between MYAN and LYAC with the Council and offered MYAN's continued support of LYAC and its work. Much of her discussion focused around the possible options for LYAC's participation in the MYAN-sponsored Annual Peer Leadership Conference in Bar Harbor, November 16th and 17th. LYAC has participated in this conference in past, having held a public hearing in 2002. Last year, several LYAC members hosted a workshop to inform the youth audience about LYAC and its work. Legislators are not expected to attend but are encouraged to participate as adult partners. The Council discussed how it might approach the structure of its participation at the conference. Deborah offered examples such as a small-group workshop or a large audience announcement for a public hearing. A more specific discussion about this was deferred to the afternoon to consider the possibility of using LD 1254 as a topic for a workshop or public hearing at the conference. Patrick Norton offered to meet with Deborah between meetings to discuss specific possibilities for the structure of LYAC's participation at the Conference and report back at the next Council meeting, which the Council accepted.

Lunch

6. LD 1254 – An Act to Modify the Student Code of Conduct

Representative Farrington re-convened the meeting by introducing a letter from the Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs asking the Council to examine issues surrounding LD 1254 and include its thoughts and recommendation in its December 2007 Biennial Report. Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst assigned to this bill, provided the Council with an overview of current law, the background on the original bill, the final disposition, the committee amendment, relevant testimony in support and opposition of the bill, as well as some possible questions for the Council to consider when discussing the issue. Youth members shared their experiences with incidences at their respective schools that illustrated a need in some cases for open information exchange between law enforcement and school administrators. Members discussed the difference between school codes of conduct, co-curricular contracts, and waivers of confidentiality and their scope of applicability to illegal activities on and off school premises. The Council agreed to continue pursuing an in-depth discussion of this issue and develop recommendations. Various supporting documents were requested for a continued discussion at the next meeting on August 8th.

7. 2007 Schedule/Work Plan, Other Business, Announcements

Schedule/Work Plan: The Council revisited its original schedule proposed at the first meeting and made several changes. The new 2007 Schedule of Meetings is as follows:

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| 1) Wednesday April 4 th | Work Meeting (in Augusta) |
| 2) Wednesday, July 18 th | Work Meeting (in Augusta) |
| 3) Wednesday, August 8 th | Work Meeting (in Augusta) |
| 4) Thursday, October 25 th | Work Meeting (in Augusta) |
| 5) Friday, November 16 th | Public Hearing (at MYAN Conference - Bar Harbor) |
| 6) Late Nov/Early Dec | Work Meeting (in Augusta) |

Other Business: Patrick Norton brought to the Council's attention a letter from the Maine Center Disease Control requesting time on the next meeting agenda to receive LYAC's input on a newly

developed survey designed to replace multiple youth behavior surveys such as the Maine Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, the Youth Tobacco survey and the Search Institute's Youth Behaviors and Assets Survey. Several years ago LYAC spent time considering the issues around surveys in schools, specifically the Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Survey and developed specific recommendations in the 2003 Legislative Youth Advisory Council's Annual Report. The Council agreed to allow time on the August 8th meeting agenda to revisit this issue, review the progress, and provide input.

Announcements: Since the last meeting on April 4th, there have been two changes in Council membership. Meghan Brewer of Boothbay Harbor resigned on June 29th stating that she is unable to attend meetings this summer due to work obligations and is starting college in New Hampshire in the fall, and felt obligated to open her seat for someone else. Meg Richardson of Kents Hill was appointed by the Senate President on July 17th. She is oversees until August 1st.

8. Adjournment

Representative Farrington adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenna Byrne, Legislative Researcher
Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

This summary was unanimously approved on August 8, 2007.