

NEEDHAM YOUTH CENTER BOARD

2009-2010 YEAR END REPORT

The Needham Youth Center Board is please to submit this final report on its operation results for 2009-2010 to its sponsoring agencies, donors, and other interested people. We invite your continued support and feedback in the coming year. Board members are available to answer any of your questions.

GOAL

The goal of the Needham Youth Center is to provide a place and opportunity for the middle school students in Needham to meet socially in a supervised environment that is safe, enjoyable, and tobacco, drug, and alcohol free.

STAFF

The Youth Center operated in 2009-2010 with a Staff Director, Peter Sylvester, and a varied number of staff members supervising activities depending on the anticipated size of the event. This was Peter's 11th year directing Youth Center events. Regular staff members include Heidi Stapleton, Georgette Chiason, Terry Chiason, Sue Collins, Jeff Clemons, Mike Riley, Mike Moss, Ben Make, Janice Kiggen, and Chris Monahon. There are also a number of per diem staff that assist with supervising at the larger events. All staff members are CORled.

OPERATIONS

This was the 7th year that all Youth Center events were held at the Pollard School. This facility contains two back-to-back gyms that enable the Youth Center to have a DJ in one gym while sports activities are taking place in the adjacent gym. We also used the cafeteria for a special event dance, otherwise ping pong was available there. Storage space at the Pollard School is limited. This was the first year that the High Rock 6th grade Center was open. The 6th grade students attended Youth Center events at Pollard. Principals at the High Rock 6th Grade Center and the Pollard Middle School were contacted to explain about Youth Center activities. A Youth Center board member attended a Student Council meeting at both the Pollard Middle School and High Rock 6th Grade Center to obtain student feedback on Youth Center activities. Also a Youth Center board member attended a High Rock/Pollard PTC meeting to represent the Youth Center there.

ATTENDANCE

The Youth Center completed its 24th year of operation in 2009-2010. We hosted 19 events this year. There were 4003 attendees in 2009-2010, bringing our total attendance to 104,213. from opening day 24 years ago to April 2010.

ACTIVITIES

Dances continue to be our most popular activity. Again, this year, we hosted a Battle of the Bands, featuring live bands from Plugged In. In collaboration with the Pollard Student Council, we hosted an 8th grade graduation dance. This dance was free for the students in appreciation for their support during their middle school years. Food and beverages were also provided.

Planned non dance activities include sport nights, basketball, ping pong, and trivia games. We purchased two carnival type games in the Fall and obtained trivia cards to be used at events. Most events continue to be dual grade. We delayed introducing dual grade events to the 6th grade, as it is a large class and its attendance supported single grade events. We did sponsor a few single grade events for 7th and 8th grade, however the attendance numbers decreased significantly at these. Two event were all grade events, including the annual Carnival night which continues to be our most popular event.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Youth Center Board meets every month during the school year to review operational details. The meetings are posted and also listed on the Youth Center link on the Town of Needham website. Current board members include:

Board of Selectman reps	Melissa Meehan
	Tracy McKay
Park and Recreation rep	Toni Carbone
Pollard/High Rock PTC rep	Ellen Gelep
School Committee rep	Pam Sickles
NBA rep	Stacey Colarusso
Youth Services rep	Trish Lincoln

FINANCIAL

We continue to be financially sound, following budget and expenses very closely. We received no monetary donations for any event.

FUTURE

The Youth Center Board continues to work closely with Chris Coleman, assistnat town manager at Needham Town Hall, to assure that we are in compliance with all town policies. The plan is to fully utilize the Youth Center link on the Town of Needham website, along with our link on the High

Rock/Pollard PTC website and bulletin, and our G mail account, and to discontinue use of Constant Contact when our current payment expires.

We plan for only 14 to 15 events for the next school year, focusing on dates with the largest attendance. Single grade events will only be offered to the 6th grade, with the exception of the 8th grade graduation dance. The 6th grade Open House will be trialed as a free event to introduce students to the Youth Center.