

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR  
GREENVILLE YOUTH COUNCIL  
March 4 and 25, 2013**

The Greenville Youth Council (GYC) met Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the third floor conference room (Room 337) of City Hall. Members present denoted by \*, members absent denoted by x.

Lauren Applewhite-\*  
Bridget Demery-\*  
Lorenzo Person-\*  
Samaria Trimble-\*

Daniel Barondes-\*  
Ashish Khanchandani-\*  
Charlotte Overton-\*  
Ritvik Verma-\*

Mercy Buckman-\*  
Michael Montalvo-\*  
Casey Sokolovic-\*

Council Member Marion Blackburn-x  
Franchine Pena, Advisor-\*  
Matt Johnson, Advisor-\*  
Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-\*

Others Present: Ms. Tina Vines and Ms. Davonya Payton  
Dr. David Holder

**Quorum:** Please note a quorum was present at both meetings.

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Lorenzo Person called the meeting and order. The members and guest were welcomed to the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Project Unify**

Cassandra Daniels stated the Council spoke briefly about project unify at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and requested additional information. Ashish Khanchandani stated that Project Unify is a program at J. H. Rose that allows students to work for students with intellectual disabilities. The Project Unify Team at Rose is working to create a fun sports day for the students. The team at Rose is thinking about sponsoring a pep rally and a game of indoor basketball. There will several meetings within a couple of weeks and we are hoping that the Council is willing to not only participate but help with planning the event.

Members of the Council raised several questions regarding the time of the planning meetings. Ashish Khanchandani stated the meetings and the event will be held during regular school hours. Therefore, Council members that attend Rose High are likely to be the ones that will be able to participate. Cassandra Daniels stated she would attend the meetings and Ashish Khanchandani will report back to the Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Non-alcoholic Graduation Celebration (Drew Steele Center)**

Cassandra Daniels stated that Ms. Vines is here to speak about a non-alcoholic event for her daughter's graduation (Ms. Payton). Ms. Payton stated that she wanted to host this event as a safe way to keep graduating seniors, their families and friends in a wholesome environment where everyone can come and have fun and wanted the partnership of the Youth Council.

Members of the Council agreed that it would be good for seniors to have a place to engage in an event that would be fun and not have to be concerned with issues as a result of alcohol and drugs. Members of the Council also thought it would be a good partnership.

Cassandra Daniels stated it would be a good partnership. However, the advisors of the Youth Council as well as the members of the Council would like to know what is expected of the Council. Franchine Pena requested information about the event, such as financial responsibilities, chaperones, food, etc. The Council would need this information before we can talk about a partnership. Cassandra Daniels stated we are not against what has been brought before the Council, but more information is needed.

### **Childhood Obesity**

Cassandra Daniels stated September is childhood obesity awareness month and childhood obesity is the topic the Council decided to focus on to raise awareness regarding the widespread danger it has on youth. At the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, Cassandra Daniels stated that Dr. David Holder with East Carolina University would like to attend a future meeting to discuss a possible partnership with the Council and he is here tonight to speak with the Council about this epidemic.

Dr. David Holder stated that childhood obesity is a serious medical condition that affects children and adolescents. Obesity is when a child is well above the normal weight for his or her age and height. Those extra pounds often start children on the path to health problems that were once confined to adults, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Childhood obesity can also lead to poor self-esteem and depression. One of the best strategies to reduce childhood obesity is to improve the diet and exercise habits of the children and their family. Treating and preventing childhood obesity helps protect the health of our children. Dr. Holder asked, what the Council thinks are ways to raise awareness of childhood obesity in the community. In other words how can this Council help to bring this matter to the community.

Members of the Council stated effective ways to raise awareness are:

- a community dialogue, consisting of expert panel members to share their knowledge with the youth;
- have Mayor Thomas to proclaim September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness month; and
- encourage schools to serve healthier lunches and remove soft drinks and sugar snacks from vending machines.

Dr. Holder stated the items mentioned are good. The Council has to decide which one or two they would like to plan for. The Council decided since September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month they would like to plan to schedule for a community dialogue and have the Mayor proclaims September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

A motion was made by Charlotte Overton, seconded by Ritvik Verma, that the Council sponsor a community dialogue in September and request the Mayor to proclaim September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cassandra Daniels*

Cassandra Daniels  
Human Relations Officer