

**Legislative Youth Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 4, 2007**

Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Room 427, State House  
Augusta, Maine

**Youth Members and Legislative Members Present:** Mary Beth Moyer, Lewiston; Hannah Stein, Portland; Brandon Mazer, Brunswick; Benjamin Goodman, Kennebunk; Hannah Lennett, Litchfield; Ian Engdahl, Winthrop; Alex Cornell du Houx, Brunswick; Rep. David Farrington, Gorham; Rep. Roberta Muse, Fryeburg; Sen. Paula Benoit, Phippsburg.

**Youth Members and Legislative Members Absent:** Meghan Brewer, Boothbay Harbor; Grace Wright, Brunswick; Dave O’Heir, Waterville; Will Colan, Readfield; Claire Howard, South Portland; Heather Pratt, Chelsea; Henry Beck, Waterville; Sen. Joseph Perry, Bangor.

**Staff and Others Present:** James Carignan, Chair, Maine State Board of Education; David Stockford, Children’s Cabinet Senior Staff and Director of Special Services, Department of Education; Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis; Brenna Byrne, Legislative Researcher, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Rep. Farrington convened the first meeting of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council by requesting introductions from each member. Rep. Farrington proceeded with opening comments about the Role of LYAC, its key function as an advisory council and a brief overview of several issues facing the current legislature on which LYAC can contribute.

**2. Review of LYAC Legislation and Adoption of Rules of Procedure**

Patrick Norton reviewed LYAC powers, duties, reporting requirements, Freedom of Access laws, and the Rules of Procedure as adopted by LYAC on 2006.

**Motion:** Brandon Mazer moved and Ian Engdahl seconded the adoption of Rules of Procedure as adopted by LYAC on January 2, 2006. The Council voted unanimously in favor of adopting the Rules of Procedure as adopted by LYAC on January 2, 2006.

**3. Review of Key Findings from the Report of the LYAC Public Forums**

Brenna Byrne presented key findings from the Council’s report to the Legislative Council, “Report of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council Public Forums”. Following, members engaged in a brief discussion about the 2 public forums LYAC held in November of 2006 and the policy issues and potential solutions that emerged.

**4. Selection of a Youth Chair**

The Council considered the question of how to select a youth chair. Out of concern for members who were not present, Council members decided to discuss this further and perhaps nominate

someone through email. The Council agreed that electing a youth chair would be the first item of business at the next meeting.

### **Break for Lunch with the Speaker of the House and Senate President**

#### **5. Briefing from the State Board of Education on LD 151**

James Carignan presented the Council with an overview of the State Board of Education and the proposed changes to membership initiated by LD 151, An Act to Include Student Representation on the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education plans to convene a conference of potentially interested students with the intention of developing appropriate criteria for selecting student members for the State Board of Education. James welcomed LYAC's participation at the conference and input on the development of such criteria. This conference is expected to be held in conjunction with the Maine Youth Action Network's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Leadership Conference on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. Introduction from the Department of Education**

David Stockford introduced himself to the Council and explained his role within the Department of Education as Director of Special Services and Senior Staff for the Children's Cabinet. He will be monitoring LYAC meetings and offered to help target outside funding sources should the need arise.

#### **7. Discussion of LYAC's Work Plan for 2007**

Rep. Farrington challenged the Council to think about how it wants to approach the duty of advising the legislature and suggested using the findings of the public forums as the basis on which to start thinking about it. Patrick Norton offered to provide council members with a list of all bills proposed this session and their current status in the legislature as a tool to help the Council identify legislation they want to consider. Patrick Norton also reviewed with the Council two bills referred to the Education Committee relevant to the issues that emerged from the public forums as policy priorities: LD 184, An Act to Protect Children's Health on School Grounds and LD 1254, An Act to Modify the Student Code of Conduct.

Council members discussed the limited timeframe with which they have to provide input on exiting legislation and their desire to hold 2 public hearings – one in conjunction with the Maine Youth Action Network's annual leadership conference in November. Following this discussion, the Council tentatively scheduled the remainder its next five meetings. They are scheduled as follows:

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| 1) Tuesday, June 26 <sup>th</sup>     | Meeting (in Augusta)                             |
| 2) Wednesday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Meeting (in Augusta)                             |
| 3) Thursday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> | Public Hearing (in Gorham)                       |
| 4) Friday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Public Hearing (at MYAN Conference - Bar Harbor) |
| 5) Late Nov/Early Dec                 | Meeting (in Augusta)                             |

## **8. Adjournment**

Rep. Farrington adjourned the meeting with closing remarks encouraging youth members to contact their senators and representatives to schedule a “job shadow” day to learn more about what legislators do. Contact information for the Senators and Representatives of each youth member will be distributed by staff. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenna Byrne, Legislative Researcher  
Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

*This summary was unanimously approved on July 18, 2007.*