

ConneCT Kid's Committee

Meeting Minutes

*August 31, 2000
1:30 PM*

Commission on Children, Hartford

Attendees

From ConneCT Kids: Beverly Brown, Sean Condon, Pat Estill, Dick Hemenway, and Felicia Manning

From the Connecticut Youth Forum, Melissa Goodfellow, Allison Deyo, Venecia Webster

1. Three visitors from the Connecticut Youth attended the meeting, Melissa Goodfello, Forum Program Manager, Student Board, and two students members, Allison Deyo and Venecia Webster (first year high school). Their purpose in attending was to give us some feedback on the website and to explore the possibility of acting as youth advisors.

In the spirit of the "focus group" nature of this portion of the meeting, I requested that the committee members listen to all of the comments and take notes without response. Some of their comments are as follows.

- a. Focused on younger children.
- b. Need more color, site is plain.
- c. Did not understand what a "Robin's eye view" meant.
- d. Need background image for pages.
- e. Didn't understand the purpose of the Spotlight pages.
- f. More games and puzzles (crossword) for older students.
- g. Not relevant to high school students.
- h. Not enough student involvement.
- i. Need more buttons on the home page.
- j. Highlight people in different eras.
- k. More history material.
- l. Site did "flow" easily.
- m. Searches were easy.
- n. Buttons were good.
- o. More national information.

The students would like to participate as youth advisors, but it would be difficult for them to attend our regular meetings due to schedule and transportation problems. It was decided that the committee would submit a list of items for discussion to them on a regular basis. They would provide us with their opinions and input. For special meetings, their attendance could possibly be arranged. It was also suggested that members of our committee arrange to attend some of the Youth Forum meetings. They will provide details.

Our thanks to the Connecticut Youth Forum for their interest and valuable advice.

2. ConneCT Kids Promotion updates.
 - a. Bookmark design - Committee members should contact Greg Futoma with their comments and suggestions on the bookmark as soon as possible.
 - b. Reciprocal links – Dick Hemenway reported that he is almost finished contacting the webmasters of the websites we link to requesting reciprocal links.
 - c. Letter to schools – Dick Hemenway presented the first draft. Please review the attached revised copy and submit any corrections or changes you feel are necessary.
 - d. Add Service Mark to logo – Linda DeConti will be adding as soon as possible.
 - e. DOIT funding proposal – Dick Hemenway presented a draft which was accepted with the addition that a copy of the Governor’s press release should be attached. John Forbes should review this before sending to DOIT.
3. Maintenance/ improvement of existing features.
 - a. Spotlight – Beverly Brown will be doing an interview with a hot air balloonist.
 - b. Visiting Artist – Dick Hemenway presented material from Dennis Waring, a maker of simple musical instruments.
 - c. Guest Kid’s page – Pat Estill has a student with material almost ready for display.
4. Sean Condon will prepare a report on the YouBelongInCT website for the group.
5. Proposed new features - Dick Hemenway presented a draft of a proposed Visiting Teacher’s Page. The committee should continue to review this and prepare comments.
6. Website accessibility – Dick Hemenway reported that CMAC Accessibility Committee is in the process of preparing a checklist derived from the newly adopted Accessibility Guidelines that can be used to evaluate sites and award certification. When that process is complete, ConneCT Kids will be one of the first sites reviewed.

7. Funding status – Pat Estill reported that a presentation was made to several potential sponsors. She will report any results as soon as possible.
8. Next meeting date and time – September 28, 2000, 1:30 PM at the Commission on Children conference room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford.

Dick Hemenway

ConneCT Kids Committee Chair

September 6, 2000