

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF EXTENSION EDUCATION, JUDICIARY & LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES**

March 14, 2007

KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Janice Marelli, Kimberly Breunig, Ron Johnson, Mark Molinaro, Richard Kessler, William Michel II, Joseph Clark, Bob Haas, Ruth Booth, David Arrington, Jim Huff, James Moore, Gordon West

Others Present: Tedi Winnett, John de Montmollin, Abrianna Barca, Ken Yance, Gary Kunich

Meeting Called to Order: 7:55 p.m. by Chairperson Janice Marrelli

Citizen Comments: None

Youth in Governance Presentation:

The purpose of the Youth In Governance program is to create a model of youth empowerment within Kenosha County, through direct participation in local government and community service. The overall goal is to bring the youth voice to community issues and concerns while fostering the development of confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders. Supr. Molinaro reported that a group of youth meets once a month before the County Board meeting. He would like to see more interactions with them. Prospective youth members will be required to fill out a short application. Requirements include age between 16 and 18, GPA of 2.5 or greater, Kenosha County resident, able to attend monthly meetings, and able to attend additional committee meetings that are combined with other committees. The application will include a written recommendation from a school staff member. Selection of youth members will be done by a committee convened by the Kenosha Co. UW-Extension office. The resolution asks for support to institute this program in Kenosha County. Data from a local search institute survey in 2006 documented that only 23% of youth perceive that their communities value youth and only 27% believe that youth are given useful roles in the community. Youth are looking for venues where they can come forward with ideas and thoughts. There will be 1 to 2 youth on each County Board Committee. There is a proposal about seats on the County Board floor. The initial launch would be from September 2007 through the April 2008 election. After this initial phase, the program would run from April 1 through the following April election.

Each youth member will have a non-binding advisory vote on the committee. The youth members will be included in all open session discussions and votes at the committee level; however, they will not be provided an opportunity for participation in the debate on the County Board floor. They could speak under Citizen Comments. Supr. Michel asked that with voting at the Committee level, would youth names be on the resolutions and would the youth be included in the minutes. Molinaro responded that they would not be on the resolutions, however, would be included in minutes. Supr. Booth asked if the students would get credit for this. Molinaro said probably not by the school. Student, Abrianna Barca added that this would be a resume builder and good experience. Supr. Breunig added that this could be taken to college. Supr. Arrington asked how many students were currently involved. Molinaro replied none currently; however, there would be no more than 18. Arrington said that it would be important that all high schools are included. Breunig added that possibly a specific number could be asked for from each school. Molinaro said

that they want to continue the program when Committee members change so UW Extension will oversee the program. Booth asked if the next person in line would be chosen if someone leaves the program. Ken Yance said that it was decided that there would be backups, an extra 2 or 3 students would go through the interview process. Abrianna Barca said that with the application process she expects that students who understand the program and really want to participate will respond. Supr. West asked if Wilmot & Westosha High Schools are included. Molinaro said yes. Supr. Marelli said that she would like to see the students treated like members of the Board, to be allowed to talk and to be listened to. Molinaro believes that the County Board could gain as much from this experience as the students. He wanted this to be brought to the full County Board by more Committees than just Extension. Clark said this is a life changing opportunity for youth. He would like to see this even taken to the State level. Molinaro said there were discussions regarding compensation and students included said this is not necessary. Supr. Huff expressed his support for mentoring and this program. Students should be welcomed and we should learn from them. Michel asked if there was any cost involved with the program. Tedi Winnett replied only staff time and they are willing to do this. They also submitted this plan to Corporation Counsel and they approved. Supr. Moore asked if there were any projections as to the extent of participation. Abrianna said that based on her interaction with students she expects a lot of interest. Huff had the idea of including home-school students. Winnett responded that they hadn't thought of this but that she thought it was a great idea. Haas said that he believes home-school students have to be registered with the State whereby they could possibly get a list.

Resolution from University of Wisconsin – Extension:

1) Youth In Governance Project

<i>Motion by:</i> Arrington	<i>Seconded by:</i> Clark	<i>Approved:</i> 4 ayes Booth abstained
<i>Motion by:</i> Molinaro	<i>Seconded by:</i> Bruenig	<i>Approved:</i> unanimously
<i>Motion by:</i> Moore	<i>Seconded by:</i> Johnson	<i>Approved:</i> unanimously

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 p.m. on motion by Moore, seconded by Huff.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree