

**Grand Rapids YLVC**  
**Grand Rapids High School**  
**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Present:** Nellie Soring, Hilary Parlanti, Sarah Neuhaus, Kassie Gibbons, Maddi Frick, Taylor Mathias, Gabby Menges, Marjie Shrimpton, Sarah Haugen, Emily Gustafson, Ashley Skelly, Ashley Chandler, Kelby Kleinendorst, Carter Rohling, Ian Godfrey, Brittney Steer, Ben McCloud, Matt Karges, Kirk Gilbertson, Angie Savela, Amy Evans

**Staff:** Sheri Mulvahill, Stephanie Davis

**Call to Order:** Joe Silko called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Marjie Shrimpton made a motion to approve the September 2007 minutes; Sarah Neuhaus seconded; motion carried.

**ACTION:** Amy Evans, Angie Savela, Matt Karges, and Ashley Skelly were added to the September 27<sup>th</sup> attendance.

**District 318 Referendum:** Joe Silko came in and discussed the District 318 Referendum. The District is seeking funding for smaller class sizes. Many teachers have been laid off due to budget cuts of nearly \$7 million, which has resulted in an increase in class size in the past seven years. The request is an operating levy of \$1.3 million per year for a 10-year period; if approved, this levy will bring an additional \$295 per pupil unit into local schools. If approved, taxpayers will pay an additional \$52 per \$100,000 of property valuation. The District's hope is to get class sizes down from upper 30s to mid-20s. The money will also be used toward maintaining neighborhood elementary schools, sustaining programming (All Day/Every Day Kindergarten), and also teacher salaries, text books, supplies, and fuel costs. Joe informed us that the middle school is expecting an addition and explained that this is because of the elementary schools being too crowded. This addition will be made over the summer and ready for the 2008 school year. The funding from the operating levy is not used for building construction. This was the first time many of the YLVC members have had about the District 318 Referendum. We are now informed and Joe would like us to motivate those who can vote, to vote in favor of the referendum. If the operating levy is approved, the money will be available to the school district for the 2008-2009 school year.

**ACTION:** Members should encourage and influence peers that are able to vote, to vote "yes" on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, in favor of the District 318 Referendum

**Community Issues:** All committee members were asked to bring a community issue to the meeting. Stephanie had everyone write their issue on a post-it and made a poster out of them. Members discussed which issues were things YLVC could do something about. Some of the issues included were: natural resources, domestic abuse, diversity, lack of outreach, drug use/meth, school referendum, traffic outside the Ground Floor, better shopping, animal shelter needs, etc. Then Stephanie had everyone get in groups, pick a topic, and start discussing and researching ways we can fix and/or raise awareness about our issues in the community. Groups will be meeting again at the next YLVC meeting.

**ACTION:** members should research their topics.

**Regional Get-Together:** This year's Regional Get-Together will be on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Personal Strengths and challenges will be evaluated.

**Chamber Luncheon:** Those who signed up will attend the next chamber lunch on November 5<sup>th</sup> with APEX. It will be at 11:45-12:45 at the Sawmill.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 1100 a.m. in the Reif lobby.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Hilary Parlanti, Grand Rapids YLVC Secretary

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