

## **Youth Meeting Minutes Dubois**

**What do you like or NOT like about living here:**

### LIKE

- Volunteer opportunities
- Feel safe here
- Snow
- Lots of places to eat
- Lots of dollar stores
- Not too urban, not too rural
- Close knit
- Biggest place between Erie and Pittsburgh

### NOT LIKE

- Not enough things to do
- Poor publicity (kids don't know what's going on)
- Not enough news coverage of student events
- Low education levels
- Not enough industry
- No job opportunities
- Too cold
- Lack of ski area / other tourist attractions
- Too many dollar stores

**What are the issues affecting you, your classmates or family?**

- Jobs
- Gas prices
- Financial aid for college
- Hard for people with problems to find affordable help
- Drugs
- Lots of prejudiced people (not always black – white, but socio – economic too)

**Do you want to stay here after graduating?**

**If so why    If not, why**

### STAY

- Family
- Safe environment

- Good place to raise kids
- Hometown ties
- Hunting and fishing

### NOT STAY

- Want to experience rest of world
- Better schools elsewhere (bigger, more opportunities)
- Too cold
- Few job opportunities
- Not enough money
- Too small
- Suburbs instead or rural
- Better paying jobs in cities, but can get rural like in suburbs
- Hard to succeed here

### **Are you being encouraged to stay or leave this area after graduating?**

- Parents want what's best for us, this is often to leave
- Need to bring more people here that leads to better jobs, workers
- Willing to do whatever he wants me to do (whether stay or go)

### **What would you like adults to do, or what would you do if you were in our shoes to make your community a better place to live:**

- More parental involvement
- Few places for kids NOT to get in trouble that leads to needing more activities
- Need more positive encouragement / influences for kids
- Hard for families to survive financially
- Start in high school: need to get folk to see bright future for themselves, need to not shelter kids so much
- Some parents push kids too much (sports, school, etc.) parents often live through kids
- More church involvement needed
- Parents need to be parents not always friends (more discipline) need more middle ground
- Some parents too overprotective (don't let kids experience life)
- Too many miss opportunities
- Because from small area, not always encouraged to pursue dreams

**Do you feel like job opportunities are plentiful and interesting enough in the area, or do you feel like you haven't been presented with enough information to know what's available:**

- Lack of information on jobs available
- Need more alternatives: seems like teaching and health care are all you can do
- Too much over priced housing compared to what you earn
- Note getting to see enough at business / job fairs, other activities
- Lots of good jobs leaving

**Do you feel youth (i.e., those under the age of 18) should be given more of a voice in local decisions or do you think it is sometimes best left to adults?**

- Anything with schools (clubs, schedules, etc.)
- Kids do have a say in their schools
- Most kids probably don't want to get more involved
- Apathy among youth