

## Words of Wisdom...from past and current YoB members

**Lindsey** is a senior in high school. She is starting her third year serving on the *School Board and School Board Curriculum/Policy Committee*.

"For the past two years I have served as the youth representative to the Burlington School Board and it has definitely been one of the most exciting and enriching things I have ever done on my own free will.

Through my experience on the board I have learned many things, the most important being that it is always important to say what you think and feel. Though it may not seem like the most intelligent or eloquent thing to say as a youth member it is important to speak up.

Adults who serve on these boards and committees value the opinions of the community and that includes the youth opinion. Though speaking up may at times seem awkward and uncomfortable is it very important. I have learned many lessons as a result of my experience and I now know that I can only complain if I voice my opinions when decisions are being made; you have no right to complain if you are silent so don't be afraid to speak up!"

**Ben** is a junior in high school and has been serving on the *Library Commission* for over a year.

"Once a month I go to a meeting at the Fletcher Free Library as a member of the board of commissioners.

What do we discuss while we're there? Books, you might guess. You would be partly right, but much of what we talk about has little to do directly with books. We talk about how to deal with the issues that every organization that serves the public has to deal with: management of the facility, keeping up with continually changing computer technology, working with the government, and of course money.

Although I'm not that interested in issues of fundraising and financing, and much of the board's time is devoted to those issues, I still believe that I can be useful to the board. In addition to the monthly board meetings, I also go to meeting of the collections committee. We don't meet as often as the full board, but I feel like that is where I can be more of an asset by sharing my views and ideas.

In all, I don't feel like I'm doing anything revolutionary or daring, and I'm not sure that the library would be that different if I wasn't on the board, but I am involved, and that is what matters."