

REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SHARED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE  
HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the District shared decision making committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on December 5, 2017 at the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet school Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY.

**ATTENDEES**

District Shared Committee Members

Nancy Allard, Carol Coffey, Theresa Duffy, Kim Gilroy, Michele Kustera, Elizabeth Lopez, Beth McCoy, Melody Renick, Diana Rich, Brian Stellato, Angela Whitfield, Kristy Carino, Jim Lauter, Lucia Laguarda

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Angela Whitfield and seconded by Carol Coffey to approve the Minutes of the District Shared Decision making committee meeting of October 17, 2017.

**REPORTS FROM SCHOOLS**

**Huntington High School**

- Continued focus on planning Parent Academy for spring 2018
- Mr. Cusack administering parent survey to gather information from parents on types of desired workshops for Parent Academy
- Thursday, 12/18 is Parent/Teacher Conference Night
- Holiday concert on 12/19/17 to feature Hand Bell Choir
- HS faculty attended presentation by LGBTQ+ Long Island Alliance. Faculty found the presentation helpful in better understanding and addressing student needs

**Finley Middle School**

- Human Relations Day kicked off with the Ravens team. Students engaged in team building activities in each of their content area classes. In Social Studies and English, students participated in focused discussions and activities relating to race and ethnicity. In Math students participated in human bingo. Next team scheduled for Human Relations Day on 12/7/17.
- For continuation of character education focus, the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade participated in movie field trip to see Wonder. Classroom activities and discussion about facial deformity syndromes and social impacts were held prior to and after the trip.

- Students making posters on acts of kindness. Mr. Amato, Principal, is distributing kindness awards and tweeting them.
- Positive expressions will be posted around the school through funding received from Macy's on the Donor's Choose website.

### **Woodhull**

No report

### **Jack Abrams**

- Implementing monthly character education train for school focus. December focused on gratitude. Homework for the soul was distributed to kick start. Homework for the soul required students to engage in conversations at home focused on the monthly character trait (gratitude).
- Art department working on "stairs to success" where students can post gratitude and acts of kindness
- The Power of One assembly is scheduled for January

### **Flower Hill**

- Faculty, students and parents excited about start of new Principal Lucia LaGuarda
- Scheduling assemblies for students based on character education and leadership qualities. Assembly dates will coincide with "No Homework Night" so that parents and students can engage in discussion about topic presented at assembly. Assembly on 12/4/17 focused on disability awareness. Upcoming topics include size, race, age, gender and PARP
- Created school spirit calendar to include dates for students and staff to participate (i.e. pajama day, ugly sweater day etc.)
- Flower Hill Foxes' song developed and sung with morning announcements every day
- Working to create outdoor classroom and vegetable garden

### **Southdown**

- Held 1<sup>st</sup> family reflection night in November which focused on the concept of self esteem
- Student council kicking off month of kindness. Each student takes pledge and posts their pledge leave to participate in acts of kindness
- Developed kindness calendar and buddy bench. Third and fourth graders creating a kindness mural during indoor recess days.
- PTA honored 6 SD students for their reflections awards
- Fourth grade taking field trip to see Wonder, third grade going to see Frosty the Snowman at Engeman Theatre

- Mr. Oshrin is tweeting all school events and encouraging staff and families to follow
- PTA/Principals book choice of the month to support character building and kindness initiative. December's choice is Chrysanthemum. PTA will purchase books.

## **Washington**

No Report

## **SEPTA**

- Goal this year is to boost membership
- Administered survey to members to determine desired function of meetings. Results indicate SEPTA members request coffee talks and presentations
- November SEPTA meeting held presentation by Mara and Glick (Behavior Consultants) on Managing Organization and Increasing Attention for Children. Members trying to secure a presentation on Childhood Anxiety for next meeting
- Art to Remember fundraiser in progress. SEPTA grateful that projects completed in Art class. So far preliminary numbers reflect increased sales from last year. Funds used to award scholarships for students and grants for teachers
- SEPTA grants are being accepted until 1/15/2017. The requesting teacher and their principal must be members in order to be considered. Both general education and special education faculty can apply as long as meeting membership requirements

## **NANCY ALLARD – TITLE I**

- Held Meet the Reading Teacher Night
- Continuing to work with Title I buildings

## **REPORT FROM BETH MCCOY**

- Working with librarians and HEFE on grant to update district libraries into multi-media and makerspaces. Working on bringing e-books into libraries as another option for students
- After School Programs are underway and going well. STEM 7<sup>th</sup> grade After School Program underway
- New teacher induction sessions coming to completion. Last session will be focused on differentiating instruction in the classroom
- Multiple tech PD's being conducted and offered in district. PD sessions include topics that cover Google Classroom, Nearpod, Flip Grid, Video Interactions/Conferencing, Scratch
- Journeys PD is ongoing for teachers. Journeys presentation for families was held and yielded a good turnout.

- Neighborhood Aides have been helpful in communicating district events to families and helping to improve attendance. In addition, they were able to improve Greenkill participation by ten students.
- Science Pilot will be starting to review two science curriculums in consideration of adoption to coincide with the next generation standards

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No Report

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** March 6, 2018 and May 29, 2018

We will be starting promptly at 4:00 p.m. Duration of the meeting will be approximately one hour. Members must be members of the Shared Decision Committee in their school. Please make sure an alternate is chosen to attend these meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made by Angela Whitfield and Theresa Duffy to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m.