



Huntington Union Free School District District-wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on March 6, 2019 at the Jack Abrams School Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, N.Y.

ATTENDEES:

Nancy Allard, Lara Breingan, Erika Brignati, Valeria Capitulo-Saide, Theresa Duffy, Arlette Hall-Epstein, Jill Johanson, Katie Kalkau, Michele Kustera, Elizabeth Lopez, Kristen Memoli, Wendy Naborre, Edie Pulizzotto, Michelle Richards

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Wendy Naborre and seconded by Michelle Richards to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Committee meeting of March 6, 2019.

REPORT FROM SCHOOLS:

Huntington High School

- Discussed dress code forum will continue to be equitable and fair and useful to everyone.
- New idea did not get good attendance. Parent University changed to Family Wellness activity instead of parent only event. Trying to get more people more involved. It's difficult to get parents involved.

Finley Middle School

- No Report

Woodhull Intermediate School

- No Report

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

- Technology workshop. Teaching students how to limit themselves with electronics. Teach them coping skills and play skills and creativity. Statistic of 6% of the children in America get an hour of outdoor play time between the ages of 9 -12.
- There are technology services that can be controlled through your cell service provider. Parental Controls option recommended.
- There's a pull to discuss more about the mental health of students. Help the students realize that they can help their friends. They are burdened with their friends' mental health issues. It's tough for kids to know how to cope. At Finley, issues facing student population are items such as bullying, suicide, sexual identity/preference, fear of school violence, etc. Addressing these things helps the community at large and the kids. This depends on the interest in the buildings. Secondary level students have a lot going on.
- A stressful time of year is during finals and AP exams. Students think it's normal to be stressed. The Stressed Years of Their Lives book recommended.

- When the Mental Health guidelines changed, the Health Curriculum was revised. Mental health is integrated for grades 4 through 12 along with Social Emotional Learning program in grades K through 6 to provide that support. During the day, we are trying to enhance that conversation with students.
- We should consider extending assistance beyond the school day to help parents to support kids. Possibly a Parent Night to discuss the various topics.
- Restorative practice

Flower Hill Primary School

- Map Night with 'Escape the Gym' theme. Math problems are solved to advance to the next station with STEM activities
- PTA Garden- Parents will volunteer and food will be donated to food pantries
- Virtual conferencing with BOCES 1st and 3rd grade. Virtually met students from Elmont using Google Earth.
- Flat Stanley - Talked about neighborhoods comparing culture in Huntington versus Elmont
- 3rd grade teachers attended Greg Tang conference
- 3rd grade end of year beach activities at Bay Hill. DJ is one of the parents is a member of the club.
- Field Day June 7 - PTA donating baseball caps
- VIP Dance was held

Jefferson Primary School

- Finished PARP collaborative with PTA. PTA funded PARP theme "Reach for the Stars".
- All grades went to the Vanderbilt Museum
- Autism Awareness day April 2 - everyone did puzzle piece
- Pasta Night was successful with raffle baskets more successful than last year. Old School Night theme with children.
- Amos Magee
- April 17th - Poem in Your Pocket Day - Gave all students a poem at the entrance to get everyone excited
- about reading
- PTA left something for the staff yogurt bar throughout the week. Decorated the building thanking everyone in the building. Contract out Teacher Appreciation Day
- PTA ran talent show at JA STEM
- Kindergarten went to Whitepost Farms
- 2nd grade trip to Museum of Natural History. Took LIRR closed the first car and made private. Escorted.
- 3rd grade trip to Cradle of Aviation
- Tremendous amount of parent support 72 kids and 71 adults
- Vanderbilt Trip - Students made thank you cards
- Approved for grant from AFA for painting blacktop. Parents are painting

Southdown Primary School

- Principal for the Day raised a ton of money. Was able to give everyone a t-shirt for our beach day on 6/17.
- Stations will be set up. Teachers coordinate
- VIP dance
- Night out - Brewery
- Future planning - Increase parent engagement like Family Reflection night to attach a survey

Washington Primary School

- March
 - The 3rd grade had a video conference w/Roxboro Road School in North Syracuse
 - March 11 - Had a successful PARP Family Night at Camp Read Some More. Building writing projects with poems. Shared poems
- April
 - Building Writing Project was poems. Every child read and wrote poems. Poems were shared over the morning announcements.
 - Autism Awareness tree that grew throughout the month
- May
 - Family night on stereo types and diversity from the Sanford Harmony program
 - Building Writing Project is How To's. Students are creating How To's
 - May 18th Beautification Day
 - Mad Science interactive workshops
 - Field day tomorrow, May 30th
- June
 - Transplanting out vegetables into our outdoor garden. It will go to the Island Harvest Project for community outreach.
 - June 13th – Summer Reading Kickoff at Huntington Library
 - June 14th – Flag Day Ceremony Fly Over. One of our grandparents who is a veteran does a fly over. Every year and we go out into the yard with our flags and he's blows out the red, white, and blue smoke from the airplane.
 - Senior week activities
 - June 17th – Yearbook signing day
 - June 18th – Adventureland trip
 - June 19th – Senior Picnic
 - June 20th – Moving Up Ceremony
 - June 21th – Senior Social
 - June 24th – Kindergarten Celebration

PTA

- Will be purchasing signs #BeKind, #YouMatter, etc. to circulate around the schools.
- National PTA offer Council grants that we applied for Family Engagement approximately \$1,500.
- New PTA Boards are either already nominated or elected and will begin on July 1st. This is Michele's last year as President of Council. Will be on the Board of Education next year.
- Arts-in-Education has sponsored something in every building this year. If there are any programs that you think meet the Arts-in-Ed criteria, let your president know. Starting to book program for next year.
- Awarding a senior with a \$500 award at the June 12th PTA Council Lunch. Increased from \$300 to \$500. Senior recipient this year is Melissa Torres.

SEPTA

- 3 goals this year
 - Membership – A lot of the faculty fills up our membership. We need to find a way to get more parents on board.
 - Meeting parent needs through coffee talks and presentations. In April we had Dr. Oz who came and talked about parental self-care which was very lowly received. Connected with psychologist through SDM
 - Fundraising - Doing very well. We just had 'Sunset and Sounds on the Bay'. It was a successful night. Principals attended dancing. A very mixed group attended and had a lot of fun. Made more this year than last year.

- This is Elizabeth Lopez's last year with SDM.
- Bike Clinic on Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Finley parking lot teaching children to ride a 2-wheeler.

Title Funds

- Visited Title I buildings and sat in on SDM meetings. Reviewed Parental Engagement Policies. Each school now has a new School Parent Compact. Those will go home at the beginning of next year.
- We've had 2 audits since the last time we met. An internal audit and NYS audit. Both went very well.
- Working on grant for next year. Takes the needs of the buildings, parents and students to take into consideration for next year. Due on August 31st.
- Need signatures for Consolidated App for next year.
- All primary schools and Woodhull Intermediate are Title I schools. JA, Finley, and HHS are not Title I. Title I eligibility depends on student population in each building

Report from Beth McCoy

- Some kids don't have access of resources at home. We bought some books that our parent readers can read on one side
- Activities and games that will be housed in the Reading and Math departments in each of the primary building. These items can be checked out by students to engage at home with their parents or siblings.
- Wrapped up After School Extended Learning Program
- Freshman Seminar no longer grant funded. Inviting a group of students that may have a difficult time transitioning to high school. Then we open it up to rest of the 8th grade on a first come, first serve basis.
- Summer Reading partnering with library. Combining efforts between district and library. Incorporate our bingo board into the library. Offering lunch for elementary students Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the public library. Teachers are guest readers on Wednesday.
- Middle school 4 sessions in July and 4 sessions in August for secondary.
- Library Expansion - full time librarians in each building next year. Unit per grade level districtwide. Librarians will meet with each grade level to get feedback for districtwide venture.
- Having consistency with a traditional library period and technology integration period.
- Last BOE meeting - multiple courses offered in high school - Beacon pre-calculus, SAT course ELA and math, offering PSAT in 10th grade, AP Computer Science, PLTW offered to 9th and 10th graders during 20-21 school year.
- Expanding Digital Portfolio initiative in grades 4 - 10. Some feedback that things were challenging. Working with a committee to streamline things and make a more specific rollout appealing to teachers. Students can see their growth over time. They will have progressive information to share with college and universities or possible employees.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings: Not yet established

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Edie Pulizzotto and seconded by Michele Kustera to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes