



**Huntington Union Free School District
District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on October 23, 2019 at the Jack Abrams School Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, N.Y.

ATTENDEES:

Nancy Allard, Lauren Biscardi, Lara Pettit Breingan, Jeanine Caras, Carol Coffey, Brenden Cusack, Lara Gonzalez, Jill Johanson, Katie Kalkau, Beth McCoy, Wendy Naborre, Amy Plachta, Edie Pulizzotto, Melody Renick, Diana Rich, Jessica Mora Rivera, Soraya Triessl, Justine Vaughans, Kerry Winberry,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion made by Edie Pulizzotto and seconded by Jill Johanson to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of May 5, 2019.

REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:

Huntington High School

- Goal: Develop Wellness Fair/Brunch to engage parents and their children in a program that promotes healthy lifestyles through education and fun activities.
 - Looking to put together program that has options related to physical, mental, and emotional wellness.
 - In the past, we hosted Parent Academy. Trying to change it up by changing the time of day and the feel of it.
 - Opening it up so that parents and children can participate together (i.e. yoga, Zumba). It doesn't matter what age you are or what level you're at. It is something that everyone can engage in.
 - Incorporating food as well.
 - Will select date and seek presenters. Considering/seeking an open Saturday in Feb, March or April.
 - Possibly put together an exit survey for those who attend.
- Goal: To engage the entire Huntington District and Community with No Homework Nights as a vehicle to promote quality time with family and friends through partnerships between the District and local businesses.
 - Started midway last year as a pilot. Received over 300 responses from exit survey with positive feedback. Forty percent felt it was a good initiative but that more could happen. One of survey questions was, "If you were to as a community member have options in the surrounding area for discounts on no homework nights, would you be more likely to go?" The answer was overwhelmingly "yes".
 - Wants to promote by collaborating with local businesses to promote No Homework Night. Discussed with Cathy Acker regarding legal parameters on promoting businesses without breaking any rules.
 - Possibly put together literature for businesses, stickers to go in the businesses windows saying "We Participate".

- The other buildings in the district are aligning with it. We do it the first Wednesday of every month, except September and June. In May, shifted it to the last Wednesday of the month as to not interfere with AP exams.
- Looking for businesses to give discounts on those nights. May have to promote via PTAs

Finley Middle School

- Goal: Work on building relationships with students and focus on creating a positive classroom for all students to help increase achievement on the Common Core state assessments, quarterly exams and AIMSweb benchmarks.
- Implemented No Homework Night. It will also be the first Wednesday of each month. Following the high school with changing date to May 27th and June 3rd.
- Family Connection Nights. Likes the high school's plan to partner with businesses.
- Trying to get kids to read more on their own for leisure.
 - Choosing a book where the teachers and students read the book and have collaborative discussions.
 - Possibly bringing the author in for an author's visit will motivate the children read the book.
- Goal: Engage ENL parents and guardians to be actively involved.
 - Keep up with ENL Parent Nights.
 - ENL Parent Night keep parents up to date about what's going on in the school district and show parents different tools that they could use throughout the year to assist with their child's education.
 - Principals provide a list of parents who do not have parent portal accounts set up. Neighborhood aides are available to set up appointments to assist those parents.
 - Continue translating documents in Spanish and ConnectEd messages.
 - Communicate more about having gradebook access, particularly for AIMSweb scores. Parents don't realize and make them aware to give them access to scores.
- Engaging families more with book fair by including a selected book and author visit for the particular book. Must figure out how to make it accessible for everyone to get this book.
 - HHH UFSD has a One Book, One Challenge for K-5. Calendar comes out for about 2 month of schedule detailing the pages to be read. Books are purchased for all students usually softcover. The teachers follow up in class the next day about the reading assignment.
 - NYS PTA has a website may list a company where you can purchase book.
- Gradebook inquiry regarding the red exclamation point. Does it indicate a missing assignment or assignment not yet graded? Sometimes it's marked as a zero so it brings the student's grade down. Confusing for parents.

Woodhull Intermediate School

- Goal: Increase parent engagement
- Workshops at night to create an awareness of healthy food choices with parents and students together. Build an understanding of the effect on food choice on one's physical, cognitive, mental, and emotional functioning.
- Workshop on understanding education related laws and policies for families that recently moved into the US. Explain that when the child is sick to send a note. Not all parents are aware of that if they are new to the US.
- Possible workshop about practices to ensure student success, studying and organizational skills
- Career Day where we engage parents and community members to aid students to think about their future.

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

- 3 goals

- Goal: Increase evidence of student leadership by activating recognized leaders and partnering them up with primary schools.
 - Implemented house system modeled from the Ron Clark Academy. Every student is placed into a house spread across all grade levels. Positive behavior points that they can achieve. Every week is updated with a house party and house meeting to have students buy in to the positive culture of the building with the house system.
- Goal: Build a social media presence to increase interest and participation in school events.
 - Posting on Twitter page
 - Looking at creating a Facebook page separate from PTA to give feedback into the community about what's going on
- Goal: Every student will have a common understanding of monthly character trait, know what the learning intention is for that trait and what the successful demonstration of each trait looks like.
 - In line with house system and No Homework Night.
 - No Homework for the Soul - Once a month a video is sent to parents to share reflective. Google form is sent as well to collect feedback. Every month is focused on a different trait. This month's trait was Respect. Last month was Teamwork.

Flower Hill Primary School

- Goal: Create new engagement opportunities for students to increase social and emotional learning experience.
 - Started a Student Council with 3rd graders. The art teacher and music teacher will chair. Eight students were selected.
 - First project will be a food drive for Thanksgiving.
 - Creation of a Kindness Tree - Large school mural using recyclable materials
 - Buddy Program - Psychologist will meet students in inclusive (special needs and language delays) buddy teams Opportunities with play and interactive problem solving.
- Goal: Maximize home-school connection and to implement new culturally responsive strategies that may encourage active involvement of parents.
 - There's an issue with transportation for parents to get to school for evening activities including Parent-Teacher conferences. Some have to take taxis. Could there be a bus that's centrally located on a conference day?
 - Wants to do a Pasta Night on a No Homework night. It would be a great thing for families to attend. Looking for suggestions to assist with transporting parents to attend these events.
 - Childcare is an issue as well. Possibly have high school National Honor Society students assist.
- Upcoming Activities
 - Turkey Trot during gym
 - Pajama Book night
- All primary buildings are Title I buildings and have Title II parent engagement. Primary buildings are eligible to get assistance with babysitting and translation for night events. Does not include transportation cost.
- Discussion regarding Flower Hill hosting events at Jack Abrams to assist with the transportation issue parents experience.

Jefferson Primary School

- Goal: Parent Engagement to show meaningful increase in school-home collaboration partnership (particularly with our non-English speaking families), in an effort to better support, inspire, empower and foster a love of learning in our students.
 - Applying for HFEE Grant to buy more WHISPER headphones. Parent engagement is low because we don't have as many opportunities with translation.

- Utilize members of the 3rd grade leadership team as mentors and helpers in the classrooms of the younger kids.
- Use the 3rd grade dual language students as mentors and helpers during lessons and classroom projects.
- Utilize high school volunteers from all of the honors societies to provide end of the day/after school tutoring.
- Apply for another HFEE Grant to offset the cost of an after school bus that will be utilized for after school tutoring
- Continue to invite parents to visit classrooms during daytime activities, (American Education Week, guest readers, Songfest, etc.)
- Enhance home communication to non-English speaking families
- With the assistance of parents, continue to implement the Safety Patrol Team with our third graders.
- Hosting parent workshops in both English and Spanish
 - Fostering academic, social and emotional skills in their children.
 - STEM/Math Night in November
 - Reading and P.E. Nights in March
- Will collect data and survey teachers regarding the effectiveness of the Peer Monitors and tutoring support

Southdown Primary School

- Goal: All faculty and staff will implement PBIS strategies learned to create a clear and consistent approach for all students. A culture of inclusivity and acceptance of all children will be of paramount importance.
 - Ongoing PD for teachers in the area of PBIS. Time dedicated at every faculty meeting for teachers to share strategies learned.
 - Celebrating positive student behavior at monthly Splash assemblies.
 - Laminated stars are hung throughout the hallways to celebrate student behavior.
 - Disciplinary referrals are being reviewed and analyzed.
 - Started using universal screener looking at internalized and externalized behaviors to look at kids who are at risk.
- Goal: Faculty and staff will continue to seek movement based instructional techniques to increase student engagement and learning.
 - New sensory path in the kindergarten wing.
 - Looking to apply for a HFEE Grant to do the same thing in the third grade hallway.
 - Time at faculty meetings for teachers to learn Mindfulness techniques to use in their classrooms.
- Goal: To maximize home/school communication and further increase parent engagement.
 - Monthly reflection activities
 - Utilize our neighborhood aides to strengthen the relationships between home and school.
 - Family Nights to support math and PE curriculum.
 - Have teachers make positive phone calls home on a regular basis.
 - Invite parents into school for in-house celebrations such as Harvest Festival.

Washington Primary School

- Goal: Increase background knowledge of students through world experiences.
 - Want teachers to utilize the Arts-in-Ed Treasure Chest program. Chest full of objects from different parts of the world for students to look at and learn about.
 - Trying to incorporate more virtual field trips using Nearpod. Kids can use their fingers to look around anywhere in the world.

- Goal: Increase parent engagement through parent workshops, school wide events, electronics communication, and parent portal access.
 - First parent workshop on Homework Help for Families was a success. Have a routine and schedule for their child. Gave them blank templates to use. Recommended homework box to keep all of their supplies.
 - Portal presentation at Back to School Night. Helped parents to sign on to Parent Portal.
- Goal: To incorporate literature that is reflective of the cultures of our student population.
 - Use books and other resources in the building that depict the multiculturalism of our student population
 - Purchase resources that culturally reflect our student population

PTA - No Report

SEPTA – No Report

Title Funds

- Title I Grant has been approved for this year
- Using funds to support
 - reading and math teachers in Title I buildings (4 primary buildings) and Woodhull
 - After School Extended Learning programs in reading and math
 - Funds set aside to support Parent Engagement activities
- Tomorrow districtwide Meet the Reading teacher Night. Fairly good turnout. We use this building. We get Spanish speaking families. Requested for them to bring their children.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

- Running a Secondary Math Night on 11/25/19 for the new math sequence that will be rolled out in the 2020-21 school year.
- Math Night will invite JASTEM, Woodhull, Finley Middle School and HHS.
- Introducing Statistics course, SAT course, Pre-Calc Beacon course, AP Comp Science, PLTW
- STMath for grades 2 – 5.
- Follow up PD for:
 - STMath
 - Sanford Harmony (Social Emotional program)
 - Journeys Reading program
 - Foundations
- Rolling out Leveled Literacy Intervention for reading specialists to use as an intervention for grades 2 and 3.
- Looking to be in alignment with NYSED standards changes in science, social studies, ELA and math, art, and computer science standards.
- Rolled out all of our full time librarians in our elementary school and revising the curriculum. Tapping into the technology aspect of library.
- Using BARS Enhanced with MyTrack data system. Teachers will be trained in January and February.
- Exploring school climate surveys. Looking into federal survey for grades 5-12 to implement with students, faculty and parents.
- Cultural proficiency keynote provided on the first day of school for all staff. Close the gap even if we're different from the kids in our class, how can we best understand their culture, background, experiences that they've had.
- LICEE focuses on cultural proficiency work
- After School Reading program begun for 1st and 2nd grade students to give additional opportunities to read and be exposed to literature.

- K-3 PE curriculum is being utilized to give kids brain breaks during the day. There's a menu of activities for teachers to use to get the kids moving on non-PE days.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings: December 3, 2019, March 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Jessica Rivera and seconded by Diana Rich to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes