



**Huntington Union Free School District**  
**District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 3, 2019**

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The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on December 3, 2019 at the Jack Abrams School Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, N.Y.

**ATTENDEES:**

Suzette Biagi, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Vincenza Caruso, Rebecca Cohn, Brenden Cusack, Paula Gasparino, Kim Gilroy, Kristin Kanzer, Beth McCoy, Emily Meyers, Valerie Murray, Denise Murtagh, Diana Rich, Alyssa Scudieri, Lauren Soskil, Vanessa Ulloa.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Brenden Cusack and seconded by Diana Rich to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of October 23, 2019.

**REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:**

***Huntington High School***

- Last meeting was on Nov 20th. Brainstormed some ideas.
- Family Wellness Brunch/Fair. Trying to get more people involved by getting the students involved as well as parents. Brainstorming ideas that can be offered to everyone.
- Tentative date is March 28th 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
- Possible Topics: Mindfulness, parent portal, crocheting, music therapy, dog therapy, diversity training, Capable Matters program (for students exiting high school, streetwise skills and life skills, toilet overflowing, things not taught in school that parents didn't teach), yoga, Zumba or other athletic dance, CPR training, nutrition/healthy eating, internet safety, vaping for secondary families, distracted driving. etc.
- Attempt to partner with Local Business No Homework Night. Checked with legal. District can't endorse businesses. PTA or booster club organizations can promote business discounts. Request businesses to give 10 - 20% off. Board game store, spa, restaurant, etc.

***Finley Middle School – No Report***

***Woodhull Intermediate School***

- February 4th, Wendy/Nutrition workshop covering eating well for parent engagement goal.
- Survey asking parents what they want to see come into school
- Some ideas were Science Fair/Expo, GRIT, nutrition, social etiquette, family journeys sharing how families came here and the struggles they go through coming here
- Come up with more activities after school. Maybe start a Spanish Conversation Club
- Support GRIT through PARP. Wants to bring back PARP with growth mindset during March.
- Wants to purchase 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens for every middle and high school student and a life journal for JASM and Woodhull students
- Making video of Huntington alumni success stories with montage of graduates who have done exceptional things and setting to music

### ***Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School***

- Continuing with 'Homework for the Soul' and house character education system
- Building student awareness of monthly character traits
- Working with teaming up with primary schools to develop a leadership program so that kids who exhibit those traits can be leaders
- Virtual field trips for the K-3 classrooms. Possibly video conferencing.
- Active twitter account now to connect with families

### ***Flower Hill Primary School***

- Create engagement opportunities for students
- Maximizing connection home and school
- Transportation is an issue. Looking to do more programs at JASM
- Kindness Chain that went around and write great things about each other
- Created Student Council for 3rd grade (nominated 2 kids per class)
- Evening activities such as pasta night. Request local restaurants to contribute, teachers and parents as well.
- Making Friendship Gardens and working on beautification of our school
- Pajama book night and prep for PARP. Book drive donations.
- Trying to find ways to bring the school community together after the school day has ended.
- Parent liaisons available to lure parents in to become more engaged and involved.
- New Parent Welcome STEM pilot program for new families. Gives a feeling of belonging. Discussed exploring mentor families to help acclimate new students and parents.

### ***Jefferson Primary School***

- The way Jefferson gets families to attend school functions and be engaged is by keeping the activities short and simple (6:30pm - 8:00pm), offering food, getting high school students to babysit with bilingual babysitters, offers meaningful workshops
- Planning meetings are with PTA and teachers to hash details for everything.
- Hosted Parent Engagement Night on 10/23 workshops. All workshops are offered in English and Spanish with the help of teacher and parent volunteers and the neighborhood aide.
- Hosted Parent/Teacher Conferences in November
- Hosted STEM/Math Night - Had 3 different centers (building activity made slime, math mat activity, math games teachers and students playing games)
- American Education Week - Welcome families in and invite them to observe classrooms to see what's going on during the week of Nov 18. Large turnout of third grade parents.
- Implemented Ticketing process - A flyer that is sent home as a ticket so that they don't have to wait on line to get raptured
- Book fair during Parent/Teacher conference. There's a free table of books so everyone walks out with a book.
- This Friday, our PTA is hosting a Vendor with 20 vendors participating night 5:00pm - 9:00pm
- Third Grade Jaquar Leadership team running fundraising event to support American Red Cross. They select to do activities to help the world outside of Huntington.
- Interact Club is making key bracelets
- Psychologist and math Rtl person are working on making bilingual videos for new families sharing routines and rituals that take place in school.
- When you survey parents about what they want, parent participation will increase. When you survey parents, they will participate more
- Suggestion was made to be creative in providing support for school events as to not burn out the honor's students.

### ***Southdown Primary School***

- SEL In Kindness

- Kindness Tree - Each student is given a leaf so that they can write something to be kind and it goes on the tree.
- Challenge students to speak with someone new and get confetti. Confetti gets placed around the hallway.
- Painting the Be the 'I' in Kind mural. The students can stand in the mural and be the 'I' in the word kind.
- Splash Assemblies - One student in each class is recognized each month.
- Painting rocks for kindness and PTA will spread around the community
- Movement for STEM - STEM and Math day in October. Rtl math and movement mats.
- Leaders from other grade levels go and help the kindergarteners go down the sensory path.
- Maximizing communication with parents by assisting with the Take a Book, Leave a Book Program at entrance of building.
  - Flipgrid - After student takes and reads a book, they can do a book review creating and posting a video on Flipgrid with their review and rating. Student can scan QR code from book mark from school or home and make Flipgrid video from there.

### ***Washington Primary School***

- Participated in the Arts-in-Ed Treasure Chest program through the Huntington Arts Council. Teachers used a Latin American chest and incorporated it into their classrooms during their social studies period. This was in connection with Hispanic Heritage Month during September and October. Used different artifacts.
- Jill Johanson presented virtual fields trips during our faculty meetings to expose what's available to us and what we can do in place of not being able to go on actual field trips.
- Parent Engagement
  - Weekly Monday messages sent via Blackboard Connect
  - Parent workshop held on October 10th for homework help for parents.
  - Minerva contacted parents to attend the parent workshops and helped translate
- Principal's Book of the Month
- Guided Reading library
- 11/8 Veteran's Day celebration where veterans and families were invited
- First grade invited parents in during week of November 25th to make podcast with the class
- 10/29 Harvest Festival
- 10/31 Costume Parade
- Multicultural night was in November

### **PTA**

- January PTA Council meeting at HHS - Ms. Alomia, new district-wide Director of Guidance will introduce herself and speak to parents. Will discuss new projected courses that will become available.
- 2/10 Night Time Coffee Talk with Mr. Polansky. All are invited district-wide (parents, faculty, etc.) Flyers will be distributed in all buildings
- 3/18 PTA council meeting, SCPD to discuss Smart 911 Program. There's a way you can register ahead with police department so that if you have an emergency and dial 911, all of your information comes up. You can register children who elope, elderly, pets, etc.
- Had a meeting with Mr. Jarrett Stein. Talked about updates on district safety and procedures.
- Primary families/schools doesn't know about the high school opportunities. Next school year, a few minutes will be carved out unit PTA meeting to share what they have to look forward to when their children reach high school and answer any questions.
- PTA Councils holds the Arts-In-Education funds. Has a committee that makes sure each grade level gets at least one program. Always looking for requests from teachers to fit areas within the curriculum. Please share with your PTA rep if you would like something in your building.
- Suffolk County provides a monthly legislative report. This assists PTA in having a voice and tackle.

- Working on the ban of flavored vaping products
- School bus video cameras to record cars passing during red flashing lights

## **SEPTA – No Report**

- Broaden the awareness of SEPTA. SEPTA really touches all of our students, not just the students with disabilities.
- Mr. Graber provided a list of teacher liaisons from each school to get input and feedback from.
- Anxiety presentation by Dr. Benedetto at Southdown
- Eric Reynolds assisted with Art-to-Remember fundraiser money goes back to the teachers in terms of grants.
- Grant applications are out now so encourage your teachers to apply. Both special education and general ed teachers can apply if they serve students with disabilities as long as they are members.
- Next meeting is in January
- Yoga event held to kick off the year. Looking for something else to do for the kids.
- Movie Night was cancelled
- Hibernians put on a Comedy Night that gives a \$500 scholarship to SEPTA of Huntington, Commack, East Northport and other schools.

## **Title Funds**

- Title I
  - Currently funding intervention services in our Title I buildings
  - Putting in an order for additional math mats
  - Adding some LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention) materials
  - Money available for Parent Night.
- Title II
  - Curriculum Writing funds come from this grant
  - Continuing to support our professional development initiatives.
  - STMath is new at the elementary level. There will be additional PD for STMath.
  - Providing PD Professional development with technology integration with Tom Diener
  - Data Articulation professional development has been provided as well as updates in the math and ELA standard so that we're ready for all of the changes in testing that are happening over the next couple of years with regard to all of the new standards changes.

## **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction**

- Continuing to support our new teachers
  - Part 154 training on 12/12
  - PD for new teacher group on Differentiated instruction in January
  - Provided them training in classroom management as well as Digital Portfolio and other digital resources
- Meet the Reading Teacher Night for students who are getting intervention services at the elementary level. Introduced Clever application so parents will be able to support their children at home. Parents and students worked together during that session.
- Continuing to expand the library program. We have the staff and now need to revise the curriculum to make as robust as possible
- Starting to upgrade our spaces. Started at the high school with flexible seating and flooring and welcoming spaces where students and teachers want somewhere to go to collaborate and work together

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Future Meetings:** March 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made by Valerie Capitulo-Saide and seconded by Vincenza Caruso to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes