



**Huntington Union Free School District
District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on October 27, 2020 virtually via Zoom conference.

ATTENDEES:

Nancy Allard, Suzette Biagi, Andrea Boccard, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Vincenza Caruso, Carol Coffey, Alison Conlon, Nancy Conlon, Carmen DiBartolomeo, Sheena Fallon, Paula Gasparino, Kim Gilroy, Kristin Kanzer, Linda Kohan, Lucia Laguarda, Melissa Lapp, Beth McCoy, Donna Moro, Valerie Murray, Denise Murtagh, Jasmina Nakevska, Edie Pulizzotto, Diana Rich, Michelle Richards, and Leah Van Horn.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion made by Valerie Saide-Capitulo and seconded by Michelle Richards to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of 10/27/2020.

REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:

Huntington High School (Suzette Biagi/Edie Pulizzotto)

- Parent Workshops are in progress kind of like a Parent Academy with different workshops that parents can sign up for virtually.
- 1/28/21 at 7:00pm Student Alumni Visit via Zoom at to share their wealth of knowledge. Alumni from previous 2 years participate to share their college experiences. Text of the Day will be shared with the students so they are aware of it.
- 1/29/21 Virtual college trip for all seniors to LIU Post in English and Spanish. Room for 350 students. Will discuss introduction to college, financial aide, process for applying to school, and campus tour via drones. They will waive application fees for anyone attending who applies. There are four blocks students can participate in during tour.
 - Criminal Justice, Forensics and Pre-Med
 - Business Management, Computer Science and Sports Management
 - Nursing, Veterinary Tech, and Nutrition
 - Broadcasting, Digital Design and Education
- Erica Murphy Jessen (Life Skills teacher) and Suzi Biagi (Business/ESL teacher) are presenting a life after high school program called “Adulting, Balancing and Budgeting”. They are working on the curriculum for it now to launch in February to be offered to students and parents.
- We created Club Classroom so that all of the club officers in the high school prepared Clever videos describing what the clubs are. Increased membership in some clubs, enhanced interactions, improved student connections, extended meeting times, more participation due to virtual platform. Possible new competitive gaming club. There are scholarships for gaming clubs.

Finley Middle School (Carmen DiBartolomeo)

- Planned and have begun running Parent Teacher Conferences providing workshops for Google Classroom, Digital Portfolio, and Parent Portal. All workshops are run in a bilingual format with translations.
- During December had a toy drive run by SGA and the Honor Society. It was a competition between cohort versus cohort.
- Spirit Week during the last two of December. It was interrupted with the hybrid learning during the last week of December.
- Considering translating the agenda books, but are now taking it under reconsideration as students switched over successfully using the digital planners associated with the Google Classroom.
- Collaboration with PTA creating a Reading Challenge in March to go along with the Virtual Book Fair. Following Jack Abrams model of supporting our local bookstore Book Revue for Virtual Book Fair.

Woodhull Intermediate School (Paula Gasparino/Vincenza Caruso)

- Inspirational Mask Project - Being spearheaded by parent Mrs. Van Horn. Materials were donated by the Materials for Arts Organization. She requested for the men and women of the Huntington Sewing Community to sew the masks. Asked the advisor of the HHS Fashion Club to assist. Expecting a February/March rollout. The students can decorate their masks and have an inspirational quote on them.
- Battle of the Books to promote literacy. Will set up committee and do a student survey by grade level to find out the books the students are interested in. From the survey, each grade level will have one chapter book for the month that they will be reading as a read aloud. There will be culminating activity such a virtual Jeopardy game between the grade levels. Will decorate hallways and doors to get into the spirit and promote the event. Will have a "Dress as a Character Day" where students and teachers dress as characters from the book.
- Parent Engagement night scheduled for April addressing social emotional learning. Every month or every month bring awareness to areas such as focus and empathy. Also, includes a book of the month wish list to support the social emotional learning.
- Talent Variety Show called "One Woodhull" which Ms. Canales is spearheading. Students creating individual FlipGrids. Trying to get collaborations with full classes creating FlipGrids collectively. Submissions due 1/22/21. Dan Sullivan is going to stream all FlipGrids together to make a premier opening as one big show. Students and families will be able to sit together at home and preview together. Will take place on the 1/27/21.

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School (Jasmina Nakevska)

- Reviewed the results of Parent Survey. Results were 99 respondents were from English speaking families and 8 were from Spanish speaking families. To support the needs of Spanish speaking families, we will have one of our Spanish speaking staff members reach out to our Spanish speaking families to try to get more responses from our Spanish population. Additional results from survey were that the majority of parents feel confident in supporting their children learning remotely and feel comfortable reaching out to the school if they have concerns.
- Parent Engagement events initiated based on the feedback.
 - Family Fitness event in January organized by the physical education staff.
 - How to get your child to put down their device and get involved in other activities being spearheaded by a parent who has done other presentations for JA.
 - Parent Social events by grade level (English and Spanish) where parents will help each other. How to Track Your Child's Assignments and Use Google Classroom.
 - Mental Health team creates a presentation monthly on different mental health topic and visits each classroom. In December, the topic was resiliency. January's topic was anxiety and how to manage it.

Flower Hill Primary School (Allison & Nancy Conlon, Kim Gilroy)

- Harvest Festival. 2 day event in October that was both virtual and in-person for the students. At the end of the day, did a parade through parking lot with decorated cars and let students walk by. Recorded it and sent video out to the families who were unable to come.
- Spirit Week for Coding Week.
- Class Snowman decorating contest where each class received a kit to increase their engagement opportunities. Project to decorate the hallways around the holidays and foster SEL. It was a relaxing time for them to be creative and plan/design how they wanted to decorate their snowman.
- Worked with PTA for Winter Workshop. Gave each child in each grade level two crafts they did in school and were able to take home and give as gifts because we were not able to do the Holiday Boutique this year.
- Were able to get the Gingerbread houses were done safely. Classes invited the parents to join their Google Meet to share their Gingerbread houses.
- Naming of our Flower Hill Fox. The Harris family created a story about our mascot and how the mascot became to be. They did a Flower Hill Fox Naming contest so our new official fox logo would have a name.
- New PTA Reflections bulletin board in the hallway for topic why do they matter, things that make them special and unique and why they are important.
- Future goals. Virtual Read Aloud Night that would be ongoing and archived having teachers, community members and alumni read.
- Implementing Kindness Squad for 2nd and 3rd grade working on character building. Will decorate the hallways working on SEL. Will add new members to it each month. Our K-1 students will be Kindness Squad in Training members.
- College Day- will have alumni join us in Zoom to talk to our students about their experiences in college and how growing up in Huntington prepared them for it.
- Recycling Project with PTA. In the past, we've done water bottles.
- Gratitude Journal for students to reflect on. Purchased the Big Life Journal for Woodhull last year. Pairing growth mindset with the elementary students. Creating a simple daily journal about 7-10 pages that has key mindset words.

Jefferson Primary School (Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Andrea Boccard)

- Focusing on creating a new Parent Evening. Math STEM Night coming up. PTA purchased materials focusing on chromatography. To accompany that, we had our Book of the Month, Mixed a Colorful Story by Arree Chung. Book is about diversity, overcoming differences, acknowledging the wonderful things that makes us special as individuals. Breakout rooms by levels. Follow up to have families send a video back to us and offer suggestions of things to try.
- In December, PTA collaborated on different activities. Supported the building by giving students crafts that could be given as presents for their parents. Had three consecutive Friday night Read Alongs. Provided take home packets for our Read Alongs. One was a Polar Express themed package that included a golden ticket, a little bell, and activity book.
- College Awareness Day. Teaming up some professionals from industries and specialties to create a behind the scenes looks at these to give students options of what they want to be when they grow up.
- Fun Contest that got families involved. Over 40 families submitted snowmen in disguise. Worked on a holiday traditions video. Currently working on a school-wide free digital cookbook. Will make available for print at a cost. Feathers of Thanks Project. All of the students created their own personal feather and we made a huge turkey by the front entrance of the building.

Southdown Primary School (Valerie Murray)

- Working on a social emotional focus. We created a mindfulness website that is a Google site that gets sent to parents on our Sunday night email. It is updated each month with a different focus which is linked to the Sanford Harmony curriculum. Focuses we've covered so far are

empathy, problem solving, diversity and inclusion, and now communication. Website has student resources for students to access from home, FlipGrid, students are able to see different responses from other students, the read aloud for the month that's linked to that exact focus, a family portal called the Family Center that families access different social emotional resources.

- For literacy, we have been linking Southdown Stories and implementing the importance of read alouds. Staff and community members record the read aloud and it's place on our YouTube channel for student to access and read along at any time.
- Attempting to increase parent involvement. Parent Workshops that we've done in the past have focused on technology and math. Linda Cohen and the mental health staff is doing a focus this week on resiliency for parents. In the past, we haven't gotten much participation. Now teachers are actually going to post those Zoom links in their Google Classroom. The students would be able to work the technology and open it for their parents. We've been putting our resources in there.
- PTA has been planning virtual fun night for the kids that can really bring everyone together. They organized a prodigy over the break for the students to be able to go and play virtual prodigy.
- Splash Assemblies highlights different students each month. There's a learning focus where the student representatives do weekly announcements virtually. Each Monday, these announcements are sent out and are posted in the teachers Google Classroom.

Washington Primary School (Michelle Richards, Linda Kohan, Leah Van Horn)

- Computer Science Spirit Week where we were celebrating coding with the theme each day and an Hour of Code lessons to place during the library media science periods. During the break we had Hot Chocolate and Chill where Dr. Richards shared a read aloud and we had hot chocolate bombs while Mr. Dicker was the DJ.
- Celebrating Diversity bulletin board where there's images of Dr. Richards' book of the month with a label telling us how we celebrate diversity. January book is The Boy Who Harassed the Wind. Each book enhances cultural proficiency and social emotional learning and has a profound effect on the community of each of the characters in the book.
- We have an Agricultural Education Project that is a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension with seed sowing planting demonstrations via Zoom. In March, we were awarded grant funds that we're using to start building the vegetable herb garden for agricultural learning.
- Cultural Kitchen is beginning which encompasses a lot of cultural proficiency. We have monthly cooking demonstrations given by a school family. Recipes are shared in advance so that while the family is doing the demonstration, the families at home can follow along. Mrs. Van Horn's family will be making apple pie delights. She will put the ingredients together in a little packet and as we get RSVP's give them out so families don't have to go out and buy anything. It's really just to share our culture's, ideas and traditions within the school community. Next month is Chinese New Year so we have a family doing something from their culture.
- Washington Reading Rainbow which is an online read aloud libraries launched during the month of January. The faculty, staff and community members will be solicited to volunteer as readers.
- Our We Are One bulletin board to embrace our diversity and cultural backgrounds. We have a huge bulletin board with flags representing the native country or ancestral country of students, faculty, staff and families. When you walk down the hallway, you see the flags and bulletin board are growing.
- We did a Toy Drive for Family Service League. The boxes were overflowing in the front of the school. We're very grateful to our families that donated. Adopted over 80 children for the holidays with the help of several agencies and private donors.

PTA (Kristen Kanzer)

- Woodhull did the cupcake decorating contest. Similar to what Washington did. Materials delivered to the kids and kids watched and then decorated the cupcake and then they all showed off their cupcakes.
- Replacing the Coffee Talk with Mr. Polansky with two virtual forums that are open and Mr. Polansky will take questions from the community. English will be on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:30pm. Spanish will be on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30pm. Flyers will be distributed.
- A group of mothers are putting together a Sponsor-A-Senior drive. Our high school seniors have had a tough year. They would like to put together a flyer asking if people in the community would sponsor a senior. They'd like to collect \$50 per senior. They are asking for as little or as big of a donation as people can give. Since we have a class of 2021, on the 21st of every month they will receive a special gift including those that are remote. This month, they're getting a Blue Devil Class of 2021 mug filled with some little blue Hershey's kisses that say something like "Kiss 2020 Goodbye. This is your year."
- Lawn signs will be distributed again on June 21st.

SEPTA (Denise Murtagh)

- Presentation by Dr. Oz next week Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on Anxious Kids Evidence Based Strategies to Reduce Anxiety and Build Resiliency and Well Being.
- Working on a survey to gain parent input to better understand what their children's struggles are and what the parents are struggling with. We'll send that around to all the PTA's and ask that they disseminate that to their membership.
- Faculty Grants. We've gotten around 3 or 4. Extended the deadline to next week. Please get the word out about the SEPTA Grants.
- Student Scholarships. Five to Six scholarships per year for graduating seniors. Diana Rich and her team selects the recipients.
- We support the extended school programs.
- Looking for fundraising ideas for both students and parents. Possible Peloton fundraiser next year.

Title Funds (Nancy Allard)

- Title I Grant was approved.
- In October, we had the Meet the Reading Teacher Night.
- We are funding our RTI reading and math teachers and our Title I buildings from the grant again. Also supporting Parental Engagement in our buildings.
- Beginning the After School Programs for grades 3-8 for ELA and math in the next month or so.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction (Beth McCoy)

- Participated in a Parent EDU course offering with Nassau BOCES to continue to support our parents. From the hufsd.edu homepage → click QuickClicks → parentEDU under the "For Parents" section. There's a catalog of courses that parents can take in English and Spanish. No login credentials required to access. There are live and recorded sessions.
- Virtual Afterschool Program. It's our first time running it virtually.
- There's a lot of PD going on after school. We have equity teams in each of the buildings that have attended three different after school sessions with a consultant is working on cultural proficiency. The next phase of this is to do equity learning walks where teachers on the equity team in each building will walk through the buildings to determine what improvements can be made to the building more culturally responsive to the populations we serve. When you walk in to the lobby and main office, is it a welcoming environment? Are there things in multiple

languages? Those are the types of things they will be looking for. After that, there will be an action planning portion which will map out how we move this work forward going into the next school year.

- We have also been providing Instructional Best Practices PDs which is a PD that I've gotten the best responses on from the evaluations submitted.
- We have a team that's participating in LICEE. The upcoming workshops cover reimagining our schools post pandemic and what are things going to look like and what good things that we're taking from this.

NEW BUSINESS

- N/A

Future Meetings: March 25, 2021 and May 18, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Denise Murtagh and seconded by Kim Gilroy to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes