



Huntington Union Free School District
District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022

OPENING MEETING:

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on October 26, 2022 virtually via Zoom conference. A motion made by Jill Amott-Erwig and seconded by Sarah Baliber to begin the meeting.

ATTENDEES:

Angela Ackerly, Nancy Allard, Jeannette Alomia, Jill Amott-Erwig, Sara Baliber, Suzette Biagi, Mary Brandt, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Jeanine Caras, Vincenza Caruso, Nina Digioia, Paula Gasparino, Angela Jurow, Liz Matthews, Beth McCoy, Valerie Murray, Jenna Prada, Diana Rich, Michelle Richards, Catherine Schaeffer, Meredith Shanley, Rosecindy Siegel, Brian Stellato.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion made by Suzi Biagi and seconded by Mary Brandt to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of 5/11/2022.

REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:

Huntington High School (Suzi Biagi)

- Goal: Planning Wellness Fair for parents, students and community members. Was unable to execute last year. Reviewing the original plan and reconnecting with partners to see if they are still interested.
- Goal: Continue to promote No Homework Nights and Engagement Nights. Stickers have been designed. Confirm local business partners. Fieldwork going to local businesses asking for participation.
- Goal: Recruit additional members for SDM team. Reaching out to students in select classes, from principal advisory council, and inclusion of club representatives. In need of student, parent and teacher members.

Finley Middle School (Mary Brandt)

- Goal: To enhance culture of appreciation for the diverse nature of our school community through associated analysis and alignment of curriculum and instruction, recruiting and hiring practices and professional development.
 - Create bulletin board focusing on a month theme such as Hispanic Heritage, Black History Month, etc. along with holiday celebrations and traditions from other cultures.
 - Weekly announcements highlighting a different person for their background or heritage.
 - No Place for Hate program and implement three activities that will ensure that student's voices are heard.
 - Two book fairs that contain materials that are diverse.
- Goal: Formulate a strategic plan that focuses on environmentally sustainable practices, including an educational program and opportunities for staff and student that promote an environmentally friendly mindset.

- Recycling bins in the cafeteria and in each classroom for plastic and paper products.
- Earth Day activity that focuses on ways staff and students can help the environment.
- Looking into creating a Finley garden to grow vegetable that will either be used by the cafeteria or is donated to local food chapters or food farms, etc.

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School (Nina DiGioia)

- Goal: Increasing parent engagement opportunities and finding a way for students and families to share their cultural backgrounds through a variety of events.
 - Surveying families, particularly 4th grade because they are new to building and then do a needs assessment based on survey results.
 - Provide targeted parent engagement sessions like a holiday cookbook
 - Fun things to do in Huntington like in Newsday
- Goal: Increase opportunities for students to feel connected to teachers and school community and to minimize feelings of uncertainty and anxiety.
 - House system in place
 - Monthly assemblies
 - Classes implementing restorative circles
 - 5th Grade Helper program

Woodhull Intermediate School (Paula Gasparino)

- Goal: Create multicultural experiences for students.
 - Bring back building level Dual Language Nights.
 - Multicultural Event for students and families using a passport system.
 - Painting flags in the hallways that represents various cultures.
- Goal: Support the social and emotional needs of our students using instruction, mentoring and guidance to do so.
 - Creating a student survey to solidify specific social, emotional learning needs.
 - May bring in Box Out Bullying program.
 - John Halligan will speak with 6th graders about cyberbullying.

Flower Hill Primary School (Jeanine Caras)

- Goal: Provide opportunities for families to maximize that home-school connection.
 - Make sure parents can attend events on Zoom if that can't come in person.
 - Cultural Nights
 - Your Story Program where parents come in and talk to students about where they came from, and why they decided to settle in Huntington.
 - Family Book Clubs
- Goal: Social Emotional Learning/SEL.
 - Talent show,
 - Pajama Night
 - Kindness Squad
 - Yoga
 - Provide students with journals

Jefferson Primary School (Cathie Schaeffer)

- Goal: To maintain and increase parent engagement to help foster positive relationships between families and school staff.
 - Welcome Committee continuing.
 - Welcome Sign will be translated into their native language.
 - New students will be getting a backpack with school supplies.
 - New Parents will receive a folder containing important forms.
 - Buddy System. Connecting new families with existing families.

- Hold events to provide them with opportunities to get together at school functions.
- Reading and math buddy activities at school.

Southdown Primary School (Valerie Murray)

- Goal: We will have the Southdown and community participate in one to two activities to support, and give back to the Huntington community because they do so much for us.
 - Southdown Strong Walkathon to support breast cancer. Raised \$1,428 for Pink Aid which goes directly to Pink Aide and Huntington.
 - Jeans for Troops
 - Baby Blessings to donate baby goods to support families in need with newborns in the local community.
 - Paint the blacktop involving the families and students in beautifying our outdoor learning spaces.
- Goal: By the end of the school year the parents will respond to a survey with 90% positivity rate for building authentic partnerships.
 - Coffee and conversations with the principal once a month
 - 'A Day in the Life of My Child' which will be prepared by classroom teachers to show parents what goes on in the school day for students.
 - Implementing a Welcome Committee
- Goal: Participate in monthly book talks and read alouds to celebrate student character traits building conversations around literature.
 - They will be doing that at our monthly character trait. Students who continue to exhibit those traits will participate in morning announcements.
 - Using 2nd and 3rd graders will be paired with the kindergarten and 1st graders to be role models.

Washington Primary School (Michelle Richards)

- Goal: To plan and implement initiatives that promote a comprehensive parent involvement that is inclusive of all families, and provide a welcoming environment in Washington Primary school.
 - 5 Family Engagement Nights planned for October (already took place), December, February, March and May.
 - Veterans Day Celebration
 - Multicultural Night
 - American Education Week (11/14 – 11/18) Event planned for each day.
 - Faculty liaison to serve as a member of the PTA.
 - Explore the different aspects of Parent Square to communicate with our parents and have full translation in their home languages.
 - Principal's Book of the Month
 - Weekly virtual announcements and classroom discussions focused on the contributions made by people of various cultures
 - in November was to engage parents in various capacities. Accomplished with parent workshops, material sent home, staff liaisons

PTA (Sara Baliber)

- K-6 buildings have Halloween events coming up.
- Finley has a Pancake Breakfast in November.
- Flower Hill PTA won the PARP award from Suffolk PTA
- Working on membership drives right now.
- Arts in Education committee has a list of programs scheduled for grades K-8.

SEPTA (Diana Rich)

- Still taking memberships. Attempting to exceed their membership from last year.
- Focusing on fundraising efforts.
- Having guest speakers at meetings. Next meeting Erica Murphy Jessen will speak to parent about transitioning to high school and the 9th grade experience for students with disabilities.
- Planning 'Sunset on the Sounds' on 5/6/22.

Title Funds/Grants (Nancy Allard)

- Title I grant supports AIS programs for at risk students, parental engagement.
- Title IIA grant supports teacher training which is our instructional coaching.
- Title IV grant supports some STEM initiatives, Mindfulness Club at the high school, safe and healthy school funding.
- SIG grant supports restorative circles
- ARPA funding a host of things including some after school programs, new furniture in the buildings and more.
- Will address later in the year policies related to Title funds with each building.
- Parental engagement is support through grants as well.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction (Beth McCoy)

- Implementing a baseline 3-12 district wide climate survey for students, parents and teachers sometime in November. Will collect that data to make decisions about what we really need to focus on moving forward.
- Dual Language program beginning on 11/14 and is virtual.
- ELA After School program for K-6 is also virtual starting 11/29. In person for Finley grade 7-8 only.
- Have been using Paper.co for grade 7-12. Students can get a teacher to assist them any time of day to get support with homework, questions for upcoming tests, reviewing essays, live tutoring. We can see the exact conversation the student is having with the online teacher.
- Implementing Reveal Math K-5 program.
- Action Plan teams at each building to make sure the building is inclusive and welcoming to all students.

NEW BUSINESS

- New Video Broadcasting course at the high school.

Future Meetings: 12/14/22, 3/1/23, 5/10/23

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Brian Stellato and seconded by Rosecindy Siegel to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes