



**Huntington Union Free School District**  
**District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 14, 2022**

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**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 December 14, 2022 virtually via Zoom conference. A motion made by Mary Brandt and seconded by Sarah Baliber to begin the meeting.

**ATTENDEES:**

Nancy Allard, Jeannette Alomia, Jill Amott-Erwig, Sara Baliber, Suzette Biagi, Mary Brandt, Andrea Brown, Stephanie Campbell, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Nina Digoia, Gina Leiter, Nick Matarazzo, Beth McCoy, Valerie Murray, Stacy Parks, Jenna Prada, Debra Ravo, Diana Rich, Michelle Richards, Rosecindy Siegel, Brian Stellato, Sharon Weider.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion made by Nina Digoia and seconded by Jenna Prada to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of 10/26/2022.

**REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:**

***Washington Primary School (Andrea Brown/Nick Matarazzo)***

- Focused on having activities that brings our families into the school building and create opportunities for parent participation.
  - October –
    - Harvest Festival
    - Family Engagement Night discussed bullying behavior and choosing behavior
    - Trunk or Treat
    - Halloween Costume Parade themed around storybook characters
    - Italian Heritage Month
    - Book of the Month: The Matchbook Diary by Paul Fleischman
  - November –
    - Veterans Day Celebration
    - Book Fair
    - Multicultural Night
    - Erected a “Free Little Library” in front of the school put in place in memory of Carol Soskil, who was one of the Washington reading teachers,
    - American Education Week “A Day in the Life of Students” for parents
    - Native American Heritage Pow Wow Day
    - Book of the Month: Pow Wow Day by Traci Sorell
  - December –
    - Family Engagement Night “What’s in Your Library”, staff of Huntington Library came in and played BINGO
    - Computer Science Spirit Week, dressed in different themes during the day and did fun activities on the computer at home.

- Songfest is approaching.
- Book of the Month: The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco
- January – Book of the Month: Mommy’s Khimar by Jamila Thompkins-Bigelow

**Southdown Primary School (Valerie Murray)**

- October –
  - Harvest Festival
  - Math Night, implemented math activities for both students and parents linked to Reveal program
- December –
  - Parent Engagement Night, focused parents engaging in math activities to see what kids do in a school day
  - Kindness Month, Splash Assemblies focused on spreading kindness, “You Light Up My Day” activity where students leave kind messages about one another hung in hallways
  - Toy Drive and Adopt-a-Family, giving back to the community
  - Computer Science Week focused on coding
  - Songfest

**Jefferson Primary School (Sharon Weider)**

- October –
  - Costume Parade in traffic circle
- November –
  - Parent Teacher Conferences
  - Dual Language Parent Workshop
  - World Kindness Day, everyone wore yellow
  - Respect Assembly with new guidance counselor
  - Intramurals for grades 2 and 3
  - Dual Language & ELA After School Extended Learning Program
  - American Education Week, connected with reading buddies
  - ENL Parent Orientation via Zoom with Dr. Garris-Shade
  - Thanksgiving Food Drive
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- December –
  - Every Friday School Spirit Day, wear your favorite hat day, wear something shiny
  - Book of Month: Make Something Magnificent connected to STEM Night
  - STEM Night, science, technology, engineering, and math and movement stations
  - Computer Science Week, coding presentation and coding board, virtual computer science “Ask Me Anything” with Mr. Chris
  - ENL Virtual Parent Meeting with Dr. Garris-Shade
  - Ms. Sejarto dressing up as Mrs. Clause doing a holiday read aloud.
  - Winter Concert

**Flower Hill Primary School (Debra Ravo)**

- 50<sup>th</sup> Day – Month long project, student researched decades starting with the 1920’s to present day, each decade was introduced with a song, title and artist from that time
  - Event and Book: Balloons Over Broadway to replicated the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
  - Gratitude Balloons (grades K-2), student wrote something they were thankful for
  - STEAM Project (grade 3)
- STEM and Math Night
  - Coding, penny experiment, created marshmallows in 3D shapes, escape room, etc.
  - Had 2 guest speakers via zoom that spoke about job opportunities in coding and computer science

- Computer Science Week
  - Coding games, Code Spark Academy, dance party hour of code
- PTA Winter Workshop, students make crafts that they can bring home as gifts and adults shop.
- Winter Wonderland Week, door decorating, gingerbread houses, cookie swap with faculty
- New World Wednesday, represent your culture during the holidays, school recipe cookbook
- Spirit Week
- 3 Month Wellness Journey (Jan – Mar), Food & Fitness, Emotional Mindset, Literature tied into PARP

***Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School (Nina DiGioia)***

- Reviewed parent survey, most interested in:
  - family events rather than parent only workshops, number one workshop was Strategies to Help Your Child with Study Skills and Organization
  - grade level events as opposed to school-wide events, top rated events were Paint Night, Game Night, BINGO Night and Cooking Night
  - Scheduled Paint Night, Game Night, Rtl Night
  - Implemented Mentor Program, had Mentor Mentee party with games and food, PD for mentors
  - Exploring leadership programs in other school districts

***Woodhull Intermediate School (Stephanie Campbell)***

- November –
  - Helping Hands Food Drive, 4<sup>th</sup> grade won
- December –
  - Reflections Contest, 20 participants
  - Holiday Boutique
  - Open House, student council and staff welcomed families
  - Building-wide Sing-a-Long
  - Spirit Week
  - Secret Snowflake with faculty
- Rohan Murphy coming to present assembly
- Continuing the Mentoring Program
- Mallory Travers is working on grant for our outdoor courtyard area to create an outdoor learning space
- New bulletin boards delivered for hallways
- Todd Hiscox is working on grant to get furniture for our main hallway and display cases
- Previously painted stenciled motivational phrases are going to be cleaned up. All messages are currently in English. Looking to add additional phrases in other languages.
- Cyberbullying assembly coming
- SEL Building Community, Ms. Escobar has been pushing in different grade levels

***Finley Middle School (Mary Brandt)***

- Mentoring Program, recently had a Meet & Greet where mentors met their mentees, meet weekly, another PD scheduled in January for mentors
- Kindness Assembly
- Completed three Restorative Circles, have another one coming up on Friday
- Reindeer Games in the gym
- Spirit Week
  - Door Decoration competition, every homeroom is decorating their own door with winter holiday theme
  - Grinch Day, Sparkle Day, Christmas Sweater Day
- No Place for Hate, took schoolwide survey, student ambassadors will review results and come up with a plan/action that students gave

- Working towards recycling, having difficulty working out logistics
- Book Fair was very successful
- Student Announcements, instead of the secretary doing the announcements, we have a group of students who do the announcements from the library. Going to incorporate fun things like monthly themes
- Added Spanish signs in the hallways to identify locations in the building such as cafeteria, library, etc.
- Winter Concerts approaching

### ***Huntington High School (Suzi Biagi)***

- Mock Trails are in full swing
- Delivered 7 Thanksgiving baskets to the Huntington Senior Center and a free raffle at the Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Caroling at Sunrise Assisted Living which brings joy to our community
- Wellness fair is underway
- Senior Butler Day and Senior Volleyball Tournament is next week
- Gingerbread contest
- Holiday concerts

### ***PTA (Sara Baliber)***

- PTA is partnering with HFEE to help boost PTA Membership for faculty and staff. Any member who has joined the PTA or does so by January will be entered into a raffle to win a ticket to the HFEE Gala this year.
- Two new Arts-In-Ed programs coming. Speed painter Rob Surette presenting to grades 7 and 8. Bubble Trouble presentation for grades 2 and 3.
- NYS PTA allows PTA's to give teacher grants for supplies and special projects.

### ***SEPTA (Diana Rich)***

- It's not too late to join SEPTA
- SEPTA Faculty Grant coming up in January. You and your principal have to be SEPTA members in order to be awarded the grant.
- Rust & Gold next Monday, will be an informal fundraiser, watching Islander game, donation at the door for SEPTA
- Sunset on the Sounds Save the Date, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bay Club

### ***Title Funds/Grants (Nancy Allard)***

- All Consolidated Grants have been approved, allows us to move forward with the initiatives using the grants.
- Requested Jack Abrams to share survey, takes surveys into account when writing grants.

### ***Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction (Beth McCoy)***

- Transitioning from Rtl model to more of a MTSS model which stands for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Will be umbrella plan that focuses on academics and social emotional needs.
- Dual Language and ELA After School Programs are underway. Math Program begins in February.
- Started getting feedback on the Climate Survey. Data will be compiled into data charts to assist making decisions on things we need to improve.
- Reveal Math visit tomorrow with another district who's interested in seeing how we're doing with the program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Brian Stellato – Chamber choir and brass quintet are doing a tour at all of the primary schools. Will spend 20 minutes playing holiday tunes and singing carols. Will do this every year.
- Jeannette Alomia – Guidance Advisory Committee met to review guidance plans for building district-wide Guidance Plan and programs. Comprised of parents, PTA leadership, students, teachers, counselors and administrators. Reviewed what’s happening currently in the buildings and what improvements can be made.

***Future Meetings:*** 3/1/23, 5/10/23

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion made by Mary Brandt and seconded by Suzi Biagi to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes