



**Huntington Union Free School District**  
**District-Wide Shared Decision Making Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 10, 2023**

---

---

**OPENING MEETING:**

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Making Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023 virtually via Zoom conference. A motion made by Sarah Baliber and seconded by Catherine Schaeffer to open the meeting.

**ATTENDEES:**

Jeannette Alomia, Jill Amott-Erwig, Sara Baliber, Suzette Biagi, Mary Brandt, Stephanie Campbell, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Miriam Engle, Liz Matthews, Brenda McManus, Beth McCoy, Donna Moro, Valerie Murray, Debra Ravo, Michelle Richards, Catherine Schaeffer, Rosecindy Siegel, Brian Stellato.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion made by Miriam Engle and seconded by Rosecindy Siegel to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision Making Committee meeting of 3/1/23.

**REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:**

***Washington Primary School (Michelle Richards)***

- Goal: Focused on improving/increasing family engagement through various family engagement activities throughout the year, as well as recognizing and celebrating the cultural diversity amongst the demographics in the Washington community.
  - Have been successful at achieving this goal through various action steps.
    - At each Family Engagement Night, we hand out surveys to collect feedback from parents.
    - Used neighborhood aide and parent liaison to increase attendance for families that speak languages other than English.
    - Books of the Months focus on the various cultures that are represented at Washington.

***Southdown Primary School (Valerie Murray)***

- Goal: Having staff and students and families give back to the community by participating in after school activities.
  - Family Engagement Nights
    - Dual Language Family Engagement Night, Technology Family Engagement Night, Family Fitness Night, and BINGO
- Goal: To continue our character building with the third grade students.
  - Magic Mondays. Third grade representatives are acting out positive character traits that also in the monthly books.

***Jefferson Primary School (Valerie Capitulo-Saide/Cathy Schaeffer)***

- Goal: Committed to fostering a school culture that encourages family engagement in the student learning process, and our partnership with families is focused on all academic and social emotional areas.
  - Hosted various Family Engagement Nights, Dual Language Nights, STEM Night, Reading Night, Holiday Read Aloud Night, ENL Parent Nights
  - PARP Program. Poem in a Pocket Day
  - Upcoming Pasta Night, Field Day, Bulletin Board in lobby to celebrate the uniqueness of each family/student.

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

- Goal: To provide opportunities for families to maximize the home school communication.
- Goal: Worked on creating engagement opportunities for all students to increase their social and emotional learning experiences.
  - Activities: Vanderbilt Museum came to kick off PARP theme “Blast Off to Reading”, high school robotics team came for parent night, children signed up for library cards,
  - Third graders led a school-wide service project, “Kind Coins for Earth” and raised \$1,000.
  - PBIS new initiative to reinforce safety, responsibility, respectful and kind behavior. Focused on one trait each month. Students earned Fox Funds.
  - Earned \$3,000 HFEE Grant for an outdoor learning space. Money was spent on purchasing stencils and spray paint that will be used on the blacktop, walkways in the hallways and focus on number sense, sight words and letters.

### ***Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School (Donna Moro)***

- Goal: Focused on increasing family engagement
- Goal: Increase student access to mental health programs and team in the building
- Goal: Increase opportunities for students to feel connected to the school
  - Paint Night theme was ‘Cherry Blossoms’ with Mr. Hiscox.
  - Rtl Family Game Night
  - Career Week approaching. Will have Career Showcase and Career Fair. Fair is only for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.
  - Implemented Restorative Circles in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes
  - Student Mentoring Program. Students meets with teacher they are paired with.
  - Student Identities are displayed on the TV’s. Students have created a page just about them and they are circulated on the TV.
  - Cultural biographies created for every student posted in the hallway.
  - Doing an overhaul on the House system for next year.

### ***Woodhull Intermediate School (Stephanie Campbell/Miriam Engle)***

- Goal: To support the social and emotional needs of our students with instruction, mentoring and guidance.
- Goal: Work to create multicultural experiences for students.
- Year in Review
  - Family Engagement Nights
  - Rtl meeting in the fall to support students with math and reading.
  - STEM Challenge to build a tower using recycled materials.
  - Multicultural Night
  - Career Day on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Had over 50 presenters.
  - Continuing our beautification spaces. Two trees will be removed from the courtyard during the summer. Two trees will be removed. Concrete will be laid with a space for a vegetable garden.
  - Flags of Our Nations. Kid crafted flags will hang in hallways.
  - Received HFEE Grant to install bulletin board display cases that will be installed in the front hallway lobby area.

- Building is getting repainted
- Box Out Bullying Assembly
- Created a monthly highlight video/slideshow of things happening at Woodhull that parents can view

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

- Goal: To enhance culture of appreciation for the diverse nature of our school community.
  - Students are now doing morning announcements
  - Say the pledge of allegiance in English and Spanish
  - Every morning during February, Black History message daily. Students led a walkout.
  - English and Spanish signage throughout the building
  - No Place for Hate Initiative. Had 'Kindness' assembly by the Reespecht Foundation. Kindness cards given out. You can actually order cards online.
  - Family Tree in the building in the hallway. Every student during homeroom filled out a 'hand' sharing what background they are from and what languages they spoke to put on the Family Tree in the hallway.
- Goal: To formulate a strategic plan that focuses on environmentally sustainable practices.
  - Community Club went out on Earth Day in the community and cleaned up the streets, picked up garbage, swept, etc.
  - Created an Earth Day Tree. Students filled out a 'hand' writing about how they could make a change in Huntington, Finley or the world.

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

- Goal: To implement the Wellness Fair. Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Have a whole bunch of activities and workshops for families to participate in.
  - Yoga, breathing, hands only CPR provided by the Huntington First Aid Squad, Jam and Hazel therapy dogs, Zumba, Singing Bowls with our security guard Silvia Belanger. She was recently certified in that. LGBTQ+, Relationship Building, Restorative Circles, Dangers of Fentanyl, music therapy, mindfulness and meditation. Each workshop is 30 minutes in length.
  - Complementary lunch provided
- Goal: Promoting No Homework Nights. Last Wednesday of every month.
- Goal: Recruited additional members to the SDM team.

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

- PTA's are busy planning end of year events.
- Nominating committees are meeting now to put together boards for next year. Council Board is remaining the same next year.
- Council Luncheon is June 6<sup>th</sup> at Huntington Country Club. Will be honoring Mr. Polansky and Dr. Acker.

### ***SEPTA (No Report)***

### ***Title Funds/Grants (Beth McCoy on the behalf of Nancy Allard)***

- The Title I Parent Engagement Policy needs to be reviewed by the SDM Committee annually. It will be shared directly to the buildings for review soon.
- SDM volunteers are needed to sign the 23-24 Consolidated Grant from the following groups:
  - Parent of Title I School (Woodhull/Flower Hill/Southdown/Washington/Jefferson)
  - Parent of a Non-Title I School (STEM/Finley/HHS)
  - Teacher of a Title I school
  - Teacher of a non-Title I school
  - Principal of a Title I school
  - Principal of a non-Title I school

- We need to have a short meeting that will review the grant draft budget in June that requires the following people to attend, if not represented on the District SDM committee. The building teams may have a member from these groups:
  - Teacher's Assistant
  - RTI Teacher
  - Community Partner (Homeless Liaison)
  - Student (middle/high school)
  - Social Worker/School Psychologist/Speech Teacher on SDM committee
  - Community Organization (YMCA/Scope)
  - Local Government Representative (Resource Officer, BOE Member, town council member, village clerk)

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

- Almost done with transitioning from Rtl to MTSS model. This has been a year long process with committees and groups of people reviewing material from directors to principals to our Rtl building teams to our Rtl district team. We have a consultant we're working with to make sure that we don't miss anything in this transition. Hopefully, will be done for roll out on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Code of Conduct has been reviewed. We were hoping to get it to the public hearing soon. We had a large team representing K-12 (principals, teachers, administrators, students) giving us feedback on each sentence of the code of conduct. Read it line by line and discussed each word in the Code of Conduct. Student feedback was essential in making sure that what we're doing represents not just what we, as adults believe and think it should be, but also getting the feedback from our kids.

**NEW BUSINESS – (N/A)**

***Future Meetings:*** 23-24 meeting schedule to be announced at a later time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion made by Mary Brandt and seconded by Brian Stellato to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kisha Fowlkes