



Huntington Union Free School District
District-Wide Shared Decision-Making Regular Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision-Making Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jack Abrams Administrative Office, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, N.Y. A motion made by Rosecindy Siegel and seconded by Nancy Burke-Allard to begin the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Nancy Allard, Sara Baliber, Heather Barfuss, Suzette Biagi, Mary Brandt, Valerie Capitulo-Saide, Paula Gasparino, Nicole Lennon, Beth McCoy, Brenda McManus, Valerie Murray, Diana Rich, Kerri Roskot, Catherine Schaeffer, Rosecindy Siegel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion made by Valerie Capitulo-Saide and seconded by Heather Barfuss to approve the minutes of the District Shared Decision-Making Committee meeting on 2/28/2024.

REPORT FROM STAKEHOLDERS:

Flower Hill Primary School (Brenda McManus/Rosecindy Siegel)

- I. PARP – Theme “Huntington – Our Town, Our Story”
Week of Monday, March 4 and March 11
 - *The PARP committee decorated the school to reflect the theme. For the kick-off, the students attended a "Huntington Town Fair" in the gymnasium where they had an opportunity to learn about some of the organizations that make our town, Huntington, so special. The Huntington Library, YMCA, Helping Hands Mission, Hometown Flower Co, YDA and many more visited. A wonderful way to kick off our student's love of reading and see all the wonderful things our town has to offer.*
 - *Mystery Readers were scheduled as surprise readers within each classroom for two weeks.*
 - *Read - in Event - Wednesday, March 13*
Huntington Public Librarians visited and created lighthouses; Representatives from the Huntington Historical Society visited and spoke about the history of Huntington; The students also enjoyed listening to a Read Aloud.
- II. Dual Language Family Workshop
Wednesday, April 24 at JAS Library
 - *Held at this school in the evening to engage parents and students in the community to participate. Parents and students participated in different math center activities, which included Bingo, Bump, and addition and subtraction Math Mats.*
- III. STEM Night
Wednesday, May 1 @ Flower Hill
 - *From the glowing excitement in the glow room to the challenges in the escape room, every session was alive with energy and enthusiasm. Each area of STEM was incorporated into a truly successful evening exploring and discovering together as a school community.*

- IV. BINGO Night
Friday, May 3 @ Flower Hill School
 - *Families played together and engaged in a social interaction with other families within our school community.*
- V. VIP Night Dance
Friday, May 10 @ Flower Hill School
 - *Students accompanied a special person to dance and mingle with friends and their guests.*
- VI. SEL – Harmony update
 - *Teachers are engaging students in “Turn & Talk” using the conversational cards during morning meetings and dismissal times.*

Jefferson Primary School (Valerie Capitulo-Saide)

SMART Goal #1: Parent Engagement

At Jefferson Primary School, we are committed to creating a welcoming environment for families, where we invite them to participate as partners in the education of their children.

- March PARP - Reading is “Monsterific”
- PTA decorated the hallways with 50 friendly monsters.
- Guest Readers read to small groups throughout the month adjacent a friendly monster– 112 guest readers.
- District administrators and the Huntington Library came in to read to our classrooms.
- March 20th - Reading Night
- PTA hosted a Book Fair
- April 16th Dual Language DL Night - Ms. Lahoz and all DL Teachers hosted the event. Our dual language families engaged in bilingual bingo games while immersing themselves in Spanish language learning. Teachers, administration, and parents came together to support our young learners, fostering a strong sense of community.
- May 29th Technology Parent/Guardian and Child Workshop
- May 17th - PTA Pasta Night – helps fundraise shirts for all graduating third graders.

SMART Goal #2: Community Outreach

By June 2024, our school aims to actively engage with our local community through a variety of initiatives and partnerships. We will strive to enhance our students’ leadership skills and foster a sense of responsibility and empathy by organizing at least two community service projects, collaborating with local organizations, and hosting community events that promote positive connections between our school and the community. Through these efforts, we seek to make a lasting, positive impact to both our students and the wider community.

- In conjunction with our Jefferson Jaguar Third Grade Leadership Team and PTA we are hosting an Alzheimer’s walk-a-thon on May 23rd.
- The Alzheimer’s Association came in to speak to our Jefferson Jaguar Third Grade Leadership Team.
- PTA will provide a bubble machine, free lemonade with an optional donation box for adult participants, balloons, and pinwheels.

SMART Goal #3: Social Emotional Learning

Jefferson Primary School is committed to fostering the social and emotional development of our students. Over the course of the school year, our goal is to create a safe and inclusive environment where students can develop their emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills. We aim to implement SEL activities that promote empathy, resilience, and conflict resolution.

- We implemented a new “Golden Spatula” award system in the cafeteria where lunch monitors will distribute a monthly award to a class that exhibited kind, safe, responsible, and respectful behaviors.
- PBIS Committee met with our PBIS consultant to make plans to roll-out PBIS

- SEL Harmony training

SMART Goal #4: Cultural Responsiveness

At Jefferson Primary School, we are dedicated to creating a culturally responsive learning environment that values and respects the diverse backgrounds of our students and their families. Our goal is to ensure that every student feels seen, heard, and valued in our school community. By the end of the year, we aim to foster an inclusive atmosphere that celebrates diversity, where students can engage in meaningful cross-cultural experiences and gain a deeper understanding of their own culture and those of others.

- The PTA and school continue to update bulletin board and television displays.
- We continue to display multilingual displays throughout the building.
- We continue to showcase student work, pictures of the students, and translated labels.
- June 7th - Field Day – Olympic theme – PTA will decorate the field with flags representing all countries.

Southdown Primary School (Valerie Murray)

Goal #1: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, 100% of the Southdown Families will participate in responding to a survey to provide feedback, highlight areas of opportunities, and grow for building relationships with the school community which will include administration, support staff, teachers, school aides, specials teachers, custodial staff, lunch, and security

- March 23rd: Annual Pancake breakfast- we had a great turnout
- School Wide Ice-Skating Event: March 16th - Great Turn out
- BINGO Night March 7th - Baskets raffled off-such a fun night!

Goal #2: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the Southdown school community will participate in monthly book talk and read alouds celebrating students' character built through the character trait conversations and literature.

- Here at Southdown, we continued to highlight the Book of the Month at our Monthly Splash Assemblies. Classroom Teachers carry lessons and discussion into the classroom during our SEL- Harmony lessons. So far this year we have read and highlighted the following books:
- March: "Last Stop on Market Street"
- April: "Si Se Puede" "Yes, We Can" by Diana Cohn
- May: "Husna and the Eid Party" Fawsi Giliani- Williams
- June: "Happy in Our Skins" by Fran Manushkin- June is Pride Month- our theme here at Southdown will be "What Makes you Special" everyone will share something that makes them special, and we will organize a gallery walk for students to go and look at their classmates special

Our Library Bulletin Board highlights the book of the month for all students.

- Each month every teacher selects student **splash** of the month exemplifying the character behavior - starting the Month of June we will be having our Special Area teachers and RTI staff select a student because we know students shine in all diverse ways and in different content areas and should be celebrated in addition to classroom splash award. We are excited to roll this out.

Goal #3: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the Southdown community (families, students, and staff) will continue to participate in two activities implemented over the last two years that support giving back to their community. We will embed a third and recent activity for this school year, teaching the characteristic of giving back while supporting the Down's syndrome Community.

- "**Tommy's Day**" to be on March 21st supporting Down's Syndrome Community - We organized as the Shared Decision Team in collaboration with Tommy's Family and John's Crazy Socks- all teachers bought and wore the socks to support the cause

- We fundraised using John's Socks which is an organization started by Huntington students who sell socks to raise money for Down Syndrome and gives money back to different organizations and charities. - Raised 750 dollars and We gave 10% of Money to the Down Syndrome Advocacy Center in the Name of Tommy and his family.
- Read Aloud about Inclusivity titled "Hey Little Ant" by Phillip and Hannah Hoose which every class was given the book to read aloud to their class to tie into the theme of the day.

Coming Up at Southdown:

-Annual Southdown Beach Day on June 5th down at Gold Star Beach- whole school- day of fun in the sun.

-Felt inspired after the last meeting and will be Implementing the "Championship Cup" idea (Shared out by Woodhull/ STEM) ' which was shared out at the last Shared Decision Committee Meeting to highlight the cleanest classroom. We loved the idea. Mr. Bill is working on making a trophy for the classroom to earn.

Washington Primary School (Nicole Lennon)

March:

- PARP, Reading Land / Candyland
 - Kickoff assembly – Indiana Jamie & the Adventures in Reading (the reading archeologist)
- 3/14 – PARP Night
- Principal's Book of the Month – "Cookie Queen: How One Girl Started Tate's Bake Shop." by Chiquita Kathleen King & Lowey Bundy Sichol

April:

- Solar Eclipse Assembly
- Kindness Challenge for classes
- 4/12 – Family Dinner Night, PTA
 - Student volunteers from Finley MS came, taco night.
- 4/30 – Dual Language Parent – Fiesta Night.
 - Latin dance lessons and Bingo
- Principal's Book of the Month – "My Brother Charlie." by Holly Robinson Peete & Ryan Elizabeth Peete

May:

- Spirit Week 5/20-5/24
- Relaunching our PBIS system with tiers for earning tickets, with certificates being sent home more frequently for home/school connections
- 5/22 – Faculty/Staff vs. Parents Volleyball Fundraiser @ Finley MS (6pm)
- Principal's Book of the Month – "Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao." by Kat Zhang

June:

- 6/7 Family Picnic
- 6/14 – Flag Day Assembly / Kindergarten Celebration
- 6/20 – 3rd Grade Moving Up
- Uniquely Me! Campaign
 - Celebrating all the wonderful things about us that make each of us special and unique
- Principal's Book of the Month: "My Family, Your Family." by Lisa Bullard

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School (Heather Barfuss)

Goal 1: Increase parent engagement through expanded communications pathways and offer opportunities for students and families to share cultural backgrounds and make connections.

- Ms. Barfuss and Ms. Lohse are continuing to update the Jack Abrams STEM - Instagram page and the STEMPA Facebook page.
- Mr. Hiscox's Paint Night was well attended and a huge success as always.
- The PTA Sponsored Art Program is still going on. The students with the help of parents are creating 3D murals with recycled bottle caps.
- Rtl Game Night on April 4th. It was another great success attended by many. Students and parents enjoyed the different activities.
- The Mental Health team scheduled a well-planned career week with spirit week. Parents from a variety of careers came in and students were given time to go and interview each person. The students asked great questions and had a wonderful time.

Goal 2: Increase opportunities for students to feel represented and connected to teachers and the larger school community. Increase student exposure to leadership through community service.

- Student council researched different types of charities, researched some, and presented the charities to houses at the House Hero Assembly. All the houses voted to donate to animal charities. **Amistad:** Forgotten Friends **Isibindi:** Ollie's Angels **Reveur:** Little Shelter Adoption & Rescue **Altruismo:** Feral to Family
- The One Mile Run is scheduled for June 8th at 9am. All money raised will go to Huntington Unity Fund. Stem will present the check to representatives at a June House Assembly. There are over 80 people already scheduled to attend for STEM.
- Market Day will be held immediately following the run. We have parent and student volunteers for most centers. We will be sending out paper Spanish copies to register to volunteer for Market Day hoping to increase parent support.
 - Amistad - Crafts
 - Altruismo - Baked Goods
 - Isibindi - Car Wash
 - Reveur - Pancake Breakfast

Goal 3: Increase opportunities for students to feel connected to the school.

- The Mentoring program continues to expand.
- The PBIS team has been working on developing the new PBIS program which includes REACH and a new pledge. (Respect, Empathy, Achieve, Cooperation, Honesty).
- Posters are ordered to place the Reach matrix around the school and specific areas of need.
- The Student Council is going to hold student council elections on May 31st for current 5th graders who would like to be officers in 6th grade.
- House Ambassadors applications are due Friday May 31st.
- Student Council Advisors & House Ambassadors will be creating skits demonstrating what REACH behavior looks like in all of the assigned locations around the school (ie. Hallway, Bathroom, Cafeteria, Playground, Classroom etc.)

Woodhull Intermediate School (Paula Gasparino)

Goal 1- Woodhull recognizes the need to support the social and emotional needs of our students with instruction, mentoring, and guidance.

Outdoor learning space

- We are continuing to encourage teachers to take learning outdoors and into the Woodhull Outdoor Classroom.
- This year we added outdoor furniture, garden planters (built by the HHS Robotics Team), and resources to support learning in this space.
- Mallory Travers received money from a HFEE grant to purchase additional materials
- for this space.

- Mallory Travers, Colleen Mahoney & Stephanie Campbell are planning professional learning visits for teachers to observe a lesson using the outdoor classroom.
- Next year we will offer monthly professional development opportunities for teachers to learn about how to plan and facilitate lessons in this outdoor learning space.

The Woodhull Way

- With student input, we created the “Woodhull Way” expectations.
- We recently purchased poster-sized Woodhull Way Expectations charts to display around the building in both English and Spanish.
- Every learning space also has a small graphic to remind students of expectations and these were sent home to families as well.
- We are continuing to have students contribute to our monthly bulletin board about how they demonstrate the monthly character trait. This month’s trait is citizenship and service to others
- We are continuing our “Look What’s Happening at Woodhull” monthly video to highlight all of the things that make Woodhull a great place to learn.

Woodhull Way tickets

- We are piloting a new part of the Woodhull PBIS plan. In the upcoming weeks teachers will give out Woodhull Way tickets to reinforce positive behaviors around the building
- Teachers brainstormed and shared ideas about what will be considered “ticket worthy” behaviors which includes any behaviors we would like to reinforce and see students continue doing – anything that demonstrates safe, respectful, and responsible behavior.
- Students will complete a survey to determine the type of rewards they would like to receive for earning a ticket (Ex: extra recess period, use of principal’s chair for the day, no HW night, etc.) Ten tickets will be drawn at the end of the month and students can choose a reward.

Color Run

- WH and STEM will be joining together for a Color Run on June 8 to show our Huntington PRIDE and raise funds for the Huntington Unity Fund.
- Following the Color Run, both schools will host a Community Market Day
- WH students voted to donate monies raised from the Community Market Day to the Family Service League. Monies will come from participation in these activities:
 - Kindness Rocks - \$2 to decorate and place around Huntington
 - Sunshine Cards - \$1 to create a card to donate to local nursing home residents
 - Nonperishable food item - to donate to The Helping Hands Mission

Goal 2 - The Woodhull Shared Decision-Making Committee recognizes a need to provide multicultural learning opportunities for students which will provide them with a variety of unique experiences and expose them to multiple perspectives.

Career Week / Career Day

- As we gear up for Career Day on May 23, students will participate in activities to help them develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways., as well as participate in a Spirit Week.

Recent Field trips

- 4th grade - Kissam House
- 5th grade - Planetarium
- 6th grade - End of year movie and outdoor activities

Parent Workshop on May 28 for all parents hosted by the DL program at Woodhull

- There will be 2 presentations for families regarding social media safety and summer learning activities to engage in with their children

Paint Night (Rescheduled from snow day)

- Learned about Jim Dine and made replicas of his heart paintings. We had approximately 60 people in attendance

Hollyrock Studios Assembly

- This was a gift from PTA funded by the Penny Wars
- This was a fun and engaging assembly for students and faculty

Pasta Night on May 30

- Hosted by the PTA
- Grade 6 students will help serve pasta and salad to families in our outdoor Woodhull restaurant (Cafe Woodhull)

Finley Middle School (Mary Brandt)

Goals:

- 1) Maintain the district's commitment to enhancing its culture of appreciation for the diverse nature of our school district community and its' students through associated analysis and alignment of curriculum and instruction, recruiting and hiring practices, and professional development.
 - i) For the month of April, we had a poster display exhibit from the NY Historical Society Museum and American Jewish Community in the Blue Zone. The theme of this display was Confronting Hate and Antisemitism.
 - (a) We also acknowledged Jewish Heritage Month with an assembly on March 26th. This assembly was titled From the Fires: Voices of the Holocaust
 - ii) For the month of May, we currently have a Mental Health Awareness poster display in the Blue Zone.
 - (a) Faculty and students are also encouraged to wear Green on every Friday in May to bring and support Mental Health Awareness.
 - iii) No Place for Hate: Our April restorative circle centered on being free of bias and injustices (what is fair and unfair).
 - iv) We continue to have monitors display daily announcements all around the school. These monitors foster community and culture as they are in both English and Spanish and keep students up to date with what's going on at Finley.
- 2) Implement and evaluate programs that support the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff to build upon interpersonal connections throughout the district.
 - i) Finley's mentoring program continues to thrive. We will be having an end of year event with all mentors and mentees soon.
 - ii) Our therapy dogs have been in our classrooms all year.
 - iii) PBIS: New initiative starting with the 8th grade. Recognizing students who are being safe, responsible, and respectable. Throughout the week teachers give students who are being safe, responsible, and respectful a ticket and at the end of the week we pick 5 names for a prize.
 - (a) Friday DJ
 - (b) More time with therapy dog

- (c) Extended Recess
- (d) Lunch in the Blue Zone
- iv) We are also doing the same with teachers. The prizes for teachers include
 - (a) Front parking spot
 - (b) Principal covers your class
- v) In the library, we have posters displaying behavior expectations based upon the PBIS initiative.

Finley Updates:

- We are very thankful for the PTA for spoiling us with teacher appreciation goodies! Last week we had a new surprise every day. Thank you PTA!
- Italian Exam: We had 20 students participate in the National Italian Exam this year. They earned five medals (2 gold, 3 bronze) and six merit awards. We also had one student who won a \$75 Top Achiever Award and a gold medal for scoring in the 99th percentile in level 1B.
- Scholastic Book Fair: Our book fair begins today and will be here until the 17th.
- Community Club: Our community club recently went to an Argentinian restaurant where they got to practice table manners and dress up for a nice dinner. It went so well and the students had an amazing time. Shout out to Mrs. Moreira and Ms. Mollica!
- On Monday, May 20th we are excited to host the 6th graders from Jack Abrams and Woodhull. They will sit in on classes and get familiar with FMS!

Huntington High School (Suzette Biagi)

Lot's going on with the end of the year approaching.

- The GrandFriends Senior Senior Prom when off without a hitch on Friday evening at Sunrise Assisted Living. Over 100 people joined the festivities with approximately 35 student volunteers. The event was a bit crowded due to the rain, and all of us having to stay inside but the "Under the Sea" theme was adored by the attendees. There was a live band, surf and turf cuisine and the crowning of a prom king and queen, not to mention lots of dancing, visiting, and smiles. 12 United Amigos members also helped out as did their advisor Rosario Lorenzana
- Upcoming events include, K Factor this Friday, starting at 7pm. All proceeds going to Rachel for a Cause, \$ for Stony Brook Pediatric Oncology and Research.
- Spring Concert 5/22/24
- Our first annual Junior Banquet will be on June 7th at the high school
- The HS prom is 6/27/24 at the Larkfield Manor
- Graduation on Friday June 28th, 2024 at 6pm
- ❖ Goals for next year:
 - Continue to explore ways to recruit students to SDM
 - Explore different marketing ideas to encourage more parent involvement
 - Run a Club Fair early in the year to encourage even more of the students to join an extracurricular
 - Use the information gleaned from the Parent Network- Volunteer Interest survey to enhance offerings already at the high school

PTA (Sara Baliber)

- All PTA units celebrated teacher and staff appreciation last week and they out did themselves. Each year they come up with new creative ways to recognize our staff. Finley and the High School PTAs will hold a staff lunch at the end of June when faculty can all eat together.
- Year-end meetings are happening now and units are voting in boards for next year.
- Our annual luncheon is set for June 5th.
- In conjunction with Arts in Ed we are bringing all 2nd and 3rd graders up to the high school on June 11th to see a production of Charlotte's Web.
- PTA Council is hosting a Meet the Candidates event tonight at 7:30 at STEM.

SEPTA (Diana Rich)

- Awarded over \$6,000 in faculty grants
- Sunset on the Sounds upcoming May 18th at the Bay Club
- Distinguished teacher award applications coming out and due middle of June
- Awarding 6 senior scholarships in the amount of \$500 each
- Held a sibling/parent workshop on addressing behaviors in the home setting and supporting siblings who have a brother or sister with a disability

Title Funds (Nancy Burke-Allard)

We are starting the 2024-2025 grant cycle. We will take the feedback from our Shared Decision-Making Meetings and include it in our grants. Grant drafts will be on the website under the Curriculum and Instruction page.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction (Beth McCoy)

- State Assessment
- Professional development for teachers
 - PLC
 - Jared Fox
 - QTEL
- New Teacher Orientation
- Action Plan Meetings
- PBIS training
- Stronger Connections Grant

NEW BUSINESS

None

Future Meetings: Schedule to be provided for 2024-25 school year at a later time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Diana Rich and seconded by Valerie Capitulo-Saide to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Minutes compiled and prepared by Kisha Fowlkes