

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SHARED DECISION COMMITTEE  
HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**October 8, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on October 8, 2015 at the Jack Abrams School Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY.

**ATTENDEES**

District Shared Committee Members:

Nancy Allard, Suzette Biagi, Meaghan Buffa, Dr. Kenneth Card, Joanne Taormina, Theresa Duffy, Rae Montesano, Edith Pulizzotto, Melody Renick, Melissa Ryan, Brian Stellato

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Melissa Ryan and seconded by Melody Renick to approve the Minutes of the District Shared Decision Committee meeting of May 26, 2015.

**REPORT FROM SCHOOLS**

**Huntington High School - Brian Stellato**

Goal: Increase parent involvement and engagement as evidenced by attendance at the Parent Academy and future parent events:

- Develop a parent mentor system whereby upperclassmen parents mentor underclassmen parents about eSchool, etc.
- Have those parents present a workshop at Parent Academy
- Parent survey in English and Spanish to determine parental interest in topics, and willingness to present to other parents
- Utilize parents in blackboard connect calls that go out to invite parents to come to events

Goal: Facilitate an environment of shared pride and community while fostering a sense of empathy among students and staff members:

- SDM members to assist in development of student/faculty/parent focus groups
- Follow-up activity development following guest speakers and programs
- Implementation of a spring "Pep Rally" with potential for multi-faceted focus, e.g. sports, academics, clubs, etc.

**Finley Middle School**

No representation

**Woodhull Intermediate School**

No representation

**Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School – Rae Montesano**

- In order to increase students' exposure to STEM careers by June 2, 2016 – Coordinate the visitation of parents/community members to the classrooms by reaching out to the PTA/community organizations
- By the end of October and lasting throughout the school year, emphasize academic vocabulary by exposing students to chosen words so that they recognize them and become comfortable with their usage
- During the 2015-2016 school year: Increase home-school communication so that parents are aware of what is occurring in the classroom, so that they can engage with their students and the school

**Flower Hill Primary School**

No representation

**Jefferson Primary School – Joanne Taormina**

- Strengthen the home school relationship by developing a parent handbook – The handbook will help educate parents about Jefferson and strengthen the relationship, which we hope will lead to increased student achievement.
- After the Pledge of Allegiance, students recite the Jefferson pledge - The Jefferson Pledge is posted in all the classrooms and was sent home as well. After both pledges are said, a patriotic song is played, such as "This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land". In addition, Spot Award assemblies are held and everyone is asked to wear red, white and blue.

**Southdown Primary School - Melody Renick**

The Shared Decision Committee has not yet met.

Working on school climate – Creating a survey:

- Parents – do they feel welcome, do they feel staff is approachable
- Students – do they feel safe in school, do they feel there is someone they can talk to if they needed to, do they feel they can get academic help if they need it

Several events planned to engage families – Cocoa house, talent show, baked goods sale, math night, beach day, community read in day, as well as parent workshops on the Common Core Learning Standards, etc.

**Washington Primary School**

No representation

## **SEPTA - Edie Pulizzotto**

- Trying to rotate meetings throughout the school buildings
- Coffee talk on Oct. 20, 2015 at 10 a.m. at Flower Hill
- SEPTA fundraiser in spring
- Membership information went out

## **NANCY ALLARD – TITLE I**

- Meet the Reading Teacher Night is 10/21/15. Letters to go home next week. There will be a translator and babysitting will be available.
- Ms. Allard gave a brief explanation of what Title I is and is not. This year, all of our schools are Title I schools except Jack Abrams STEM School and Huntington High School. The amount of funding we get depends on the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch, but children do not have to be eligible for free and reduced lunch to participate in the program.
- School parent compact - Three documents were distributed. School based teams need to review these each year. The Title I Parent Involvement Policy is a Board Policy. We can't make changes to this, but if we have suggestions, we can bring those suggestions forward to the Board. Title I also requires each building to adopt the District Policy as their guidelines or each building can come up with its own guidelines. If the school based committee wants to develop their own guidelines, please contact Nancy Allard, because there are certain things that need to be included. School - Parent Compact: School based teams can change this or use the one we have
- Dr. Card reviewed the difference between policy and practice

## **REPORT FROM DR. CARD**

### **2015/16 Goals**

- Percentage of teachers participating in inter-visitation of ELA and Math classrooms will increase from 3% to about 10 to 15% during the 2015/2016 school year as measured by completion logs submitted through My Learning Plan at the end of each quarter (October 2015, January 2016, April 2016, and June 2016).
- Percentage of professional development offerings in the area of students' social and emotional developmental health needs (SEDH) will increase from 2% of total professional development offerings in 2014/2015 to 15% of the offered professional development activities in 2015/2016 that are offered to teachers and administrators.
- Teachers and administrators in both Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 will participate in Data Articulation Meetings at grade level in the elementary schools and by departments at the secondary level to identify gaps in student learning from the previous assessment cycle. The information derived from the data analysis will inform teacher curriculum planning for the initial 6 weeks of instruction to ensure student weaknesses are addressed as new content is being presented to students during September and October 2015.

- By the end of August 2015, middle school Math, Science, and Technology teachers will develop at least two interdisciplinary units of instruction to support the students transitioning from the STEM School and students from Woodhull Intermediate who have not previously been exposed to STEM teaching and learning activities that are inquiry based opportunities.
- By May 1, 2016, the percentage of teachers incorporating a differentiated instruction approach in their classrooms should be at or about 75% of the total teaching staff K-12 in the Huntington Union Free School district as determined through the use of the district Focus Walk protocol.
- By the end of the school year, June 2016, at least 50% of the district's staff will participate in professional development activities on SEDH through the Master Teacher online tutorial program and as a result of such participation, there should be a 5 to 15% drop in student discipline referrals and student suspensions district-wide.
- By January 2016, the district will develop a Family/Parent Involvement and Engagement Strategic Plan with goals and objectives that will be shared with all community agencies, families/parents and community partners to ensure we are working together to support student achievement, and preparing students for college and career readiness.

### **Technology Deployment**

- All students in grade 3-8 now have access to Chromebooks. Grade 3 and 5 had devices last year. We have added grades 4, 6, 7 &8. Middle School students take their devices with them, while the elementary grades have carts in each classroom for the devices to be stored
- Grades K-2, will have SMART Tables at each grade level. For now we have two tables at each of the primary schools; and one table at STEM

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** December 8, 2015; March 8, 2016; May 31, 2016

We will be starting promptly at 4:00 p.m. Duration of the meeting will be approximately one hour. Members must be members of the Shared Decision Committee in their school. Please make sure an alternate is chosen to attend these meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made Rae Montesano and seconded by Nancy Allard to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.