

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SHARED DECISION COMMITTEE  
HUNTINGTON U.F.S.D.**

**January 14, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the District Shared Decision Committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on January 14, 2014 at the Jack Abrams School Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. (The 12/10/13 meeting was re-scheduled due to weather.)

**ATTENDEES**

Nancy Allard, Suzette Biagi, Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., Carol Coffey, Kimberly Finneran, Nick Harvey, Jim Lauter, Rae Montesano, Marsha Neville, Connie Sakellaropoulos, Soraya Triessl

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Nancy Allard and seconded by Carol Coffey to approve the Minutes of the District Shared Decision Committee meeting of October 8, 2013.

Dr. Card reviewed the purview of the committee, reiterating that the committee had no decision making powers but was in place, as required by New York State, to serve as a base where the Shared Decision Making committees of all the schools in the district could report on their work. Members of the community are permitted to attend District Shared Decision Making Committee meetings, and minutes are posted on the district website.

**REPORT FROM SCHOOLS**

**Huntington High School**

1. Student Survey – Results of the spring student survey on cursing were reviewed. Students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 were able to take the survey wherein 724 responded. Seventy-five percent of those responding felt that cursing in school did not have negative effects. They believe this is so because they feel students are used to it, and it is freedom of speech.
2. Parent engagement is a focus area
  - a. A new peer support group for ELL students was formed by Rosario Lorenzana to address specific areas of anxiety these students face. Dr. Giovanni Mendez has also helped with this.
  - b. The Parent Academy, held on December 13, 2013 was a huge success. Parents could choose three of 14 sessions to attend. Over 65 parents attended and all of the feedback was positive. Plans are being made for future Parent Academies.

**Finley Middle School**

1. Academic Achievement Program is a new program which began at the start of Quarter 2 to help students having difficulty with their core courses. Teachers of each academic team chose 4 students for the program. There are new incentives offered every five weeks.
2. Finley's student of the week mantra: Respectful, responsible, hardworking and always looking to improve

**Woodhull** – no representative present

**Flower Hill**

1. Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) – This program will begin in February. This year's theme is the Winter Olympics
2. Math Curriculum Night – This event is scheduled for some time in March. It was extremely successful last year.

**Jefferson**

The focus is on social-emotional areas.

1. Development of self -awareness and management skills
2. SPOT Kids – students are given a ticket if they are seen acting safely, responsibly or respectfully
3. Teachers attended DASA training
4. Some teachers attended Lion's Quest training

**Southdown** – no representative present

**Washington**

The focus is on raising parent awareness to the Common Core Learning Standards

- a. Open School Night – parent handout
- b. Teaming with core group of teachers (14) pursuing National Board Certification (made possible through the STLE grant)
- c. New teachers will have to go through a process similar to the process for National Board Certification. They must videotape themselves and pass a test where they respond to various prompts, write a critical lens essay, as well as still taking and passing the LAST and CST.

**JA STEM Magnet School**

The focus is on implementing a character education program and on providing opportunities for parents and students to engage in STEM related activities outside of the school day.

- a. Working on an anti-bullying program
- b. Outstanding Ospreys (mascot) program – reward students and classes for good behavior and helping others
- c. Technology Week – visits to technology related businesses and guest speakers coming to the school

**REPORT FROM NANCY ALLARD – TITLE I**

Reviewed a printed PowerPoint slide show about Title I funds

- a. All of our primary schools and Woodhull Intermediate School are Title I schools - Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School just opened and was not counted for last year
- b. Purpose is to ensure that all students have a chance to receive a high quality education
- c. Students who participate in Title I programs do not have to be low income, but typically are at risk
- d. Districts must monitor student progress
- e. Members were asked to share this information with their home Shared Decision Making teams

## **REPORT FROM DR. CARD**

Discussed STLE GRANTS – I and II

- a. Purpose – build career ladder pathways for teachers and administrators
- b. STLE I - \$460,000
- c. STLE II - \$540,000
- d. New positions
  1. Coaches – math, science, technology, STEM
  2. Parent involvement coordinator – will support building principals to create their own parent academies and reach out to community members
  3. Student transition coaches – help students at middle school who could be retained
    - a) Freshman seminar – Two week summer program before school opens, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon, transportation provided
    - b) check in with students once school begins
    - c) trips
  4. FMS STEM afterschool program
    - a) for students at level 2 on ELA/math assessments
    - b) once/week
    - c) robotics/electrical circuits
    - d) summer program
    - e) trips
- e. Use Meet the Teacher night as an opportunity to expose parents to how and what children are learning

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** 3/11/14, 5/27/14

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 to adjourn the meeting and so moved by the chair at 5:25 p.m.