

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

December 8, 2015

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

ATTENDEES

District Shared Committee Members:

Nancy Allard, Suzette Biagi, Dr. Kenneth Card, Carol Coffey, Theresa Duffy, Keith Meyers, Patrice Monks, Rae Montesano, Marsha Neville, Melody Renick, Melissa Ryan, Brian Stellato, Shelley Stockner, Angela Whitfield, Nancy Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Angela Whitfield and seconded by Melody Renick to approve the Minutes of the District Shared Decision Committee meeting of October 8, 2015.

REPORT FROM SCHOOLS

Huntington High School

Mrs. Biagi and Brian Stellato reported that there were 60-70 attendees at a Parent Academy Program which ran like periods, changing every 40 minutes. Parents mentored newer parents. Bobby Petrizelli, a motivational speaker spoke at the High School today. Students will receive community service hours for attending. There were many positive reports about his program. Principal sent out texts to get high school community involved in focus groups to improve empathy at the high school.

Finley Middle School

Angela Whitfield reported on a research based strategy used in schools to increase students' awareness and focus of their learning environment. The program is called "Mindfulness in Schools". It is being considered for implementation at Finley Middle School. Mr. Amato is forming a student advisory board to meet and discuss student issues related to emotional health and growth. There will be six students from each grade with an even number of males and females.

Woodhull Intermediate School

Keith Meyers reported that Woodhull had a Student/Parent Workshop on November 19, 2015. It was a success, and it had over 150 participants. Afterwards, surveys had nothing but positive comments. Students worked alongside their parents to complete a task. There were four stations, and participants moved every 20 minutes. One example was a station in which participants had to create a tower out of pipe cleaners, straws, index cards, popsicle sticks, and string that could hold a golf ball at the top. On January 15th, the motivational speaker, Rojan Murphy will speak to the children.

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

Principal Rae Montesano reported that they are using a word of the week to support their academic vocabulary. Monitors will ask the students during lunch to define a word and/or put it into a sentence, and then give students a reward for getting it correct. They had a successful engineering night, as well as a BINGO night with prizes. A packet of family engagements was handed out to the student body to increase the involvement of the parents in the building. They had some guest speakers which included an engineer, computer programmer, and software expert.

Flower Hill Primary School

Jim Lauter presented that they had a math family night at the school which had an attendance of approximately 80 people. This included training for the parents on Marybeth Robinette's e-board. High School students helped out as well. They're doing a fundraising effort for Cystic Fibrosis. A survey is also being done to find out what the parents would like to see more of in the school.

Jefferson Primary School

Carol Coffee reported that their PBIS committee is encouraging the learning of patriotic songs. Susan Lanis is handing out math challenges to the student body. The fourth graders recently completed a seven week program sponsored by Suffolk Sheriff Vincent F. DeMarco. The initiative featured sessions devoted to bullying, youth crime, violence, drug use and gang involvement while developing a positive relationship between the students and law enforcement professionals. The GREAT (Gang Resistant Education and Training) Program is funded through a federal grant. Officers Everett Oliver and Julius Nelson worked with Jefferson School's fourth grade classes for 40 minutes each week, delivering carefully crafted lessons and pursuing activities contained in a 32 page handbook given to each student.

Southdown Primary School

A vocabulary program is being initiated in which there is a word of the week, and students get the opportunity to be chosen to speak on the morning announcements. PBIS committee is implementing the RAK program, which stands for Random Acts of Kindness. They have designed a tree in the hallway to hang pictures of students who have been reported to have done something kind. A parent survey is being done to determine the climate of the building, and students are also doing their own survey in the 3rd and 4th grades. They are preparing for a Family Math Night on January 27, 2016.

Washington Primary School

Principal Marsha Neville reported that parent engagement is their number one priority. During American Education Week in November, parents were invited into the classrooms. They had a chance to see what their children were learning in class. A Spirit Week is coming up in which the children will dress up like their classmates one day, and wear formal attire for another day. They will also have a Math Night during the Science Fair.

SEPTA

Nancy Wilson stated that they were not doing their usual art fundraiser this year, therefore their grants may not be as much. She also reported that they were moving their "Coffee Talks" into each building, on a rotating basis.

NANCY ALLARD – TITLE I

Nancy Allard made us aware that she has some money in the budget for parental engagement initiatives. This could be used for babysitting and translating services.

REPORT FROM DR. CARD

Dr. Card updated us on the Universal Pre-K Program in the district. He informed us that most of our students are serviced by Family Service League, while some are serviced through DDI. The district has been sending our district leaders to meet with the Pre-K staff. Nancy Wilson has done presentations on behaviors and levels of interventions. Angela Berner has worked with their staff on language techniques and training for Pre-K students. Marybeth Robinette has worked on training staff to teach number recognition. Lastly, Judy Moroff is instructing staff on language acquisition strategies for ELLs.

NEW BUSINESS

None

FUTURE MEETINGS: 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 by Nancy Allard and seconded by Rae Montesano to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.