

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

March 6, 2018

The regular meeting of the District shared decision making committee of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on March 6, 2018 at the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet school Library, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY.

ATTENDEES

District Shared Committee Members

Nancy Allard, Suzette Biagi, Theresa Duffy, Jill Johanson, Michele Kustera, Lucia Laguarda, Janine Luca, Elizabeth Lopez, Beth McCoy, Keith Meyers, Edith Pulizzotto, Diana Rich, Sharon Weider, Doreen Ellis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Theresa Duffy and seconded by Lucia Laguarda to approve the Minutes of the District Shared Decision making committee meeting of December 5, 2017.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOLS

Huntington High School

- K-Factor raised over \$6,000 for three families affected by cancer
- The school celebrated Black History Month and Valentine's Day with a Junior/Senior Concert
- Parent Academy will be held on 4/17/18 and will include nine different workshops including ones on mental health, preparing for life beyond college and vaping. They are expecting 50 – 60 people will attend. While the event is geared to high school families, others are welcome to attend.
- Many other activities are underway, like Robotics and the play

Finley Middle School - No Report

Woodhull Intermediate School

- Next Family Connection night is 3/14/18. The theme this month is kindness, caring and sharing.
- In June - planning a health and fitness theme

- A Social Media Safety Meeting was held for families. Unfortunately attendance was light. Students were provided with a presentation during the day and a parent event was held at night. Feedback from those in attendance was good.
- Career Day is scheduled for 4/20/18 - any volunteers are welcome to join
- Eli's March Madness is coming up on 3/16/18 with Woodhull teachers against the High School Teachers. This is a well-attended event that is raising money for a scholarship in Eli's name.

Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

- Continue with our homework for the Soul night. A school banner has been created to highlight student reflections about the monthly theme. Videos & Google forms for parent/student reflections are part of this month's program.
- Our Shared Decision Making Committee is planning "wonder week" which will be held the week of June 11, 2018. There will be different events each day during the week. So far, we have a group from NYC Facial Cranial Surgery center coming to give an assembly; we have secured the rights to the Wonder movie; we have a theme song students are learning in general music and chorus and teachers are planning a Flash Mob performance.
- Held our Power of One assembly. The feedback from students was very positive.

Flower Hill Primary School

- Family Connection nights continue where students are given no homework and encouraged to talk with parents about themes tied to PBIS and differences
- Planning a "peaceful garden & outdoor learning center" - grants have been written to support the development and fundraising events that are taking place
- PARP began and will include a school-wide competition and book share

Jefferson Primary School

- Jefferson has been doing the Family Connection each month with a different theme.
- Dual Language had their celebration night recently, which was a great success. They had lots of food, fun, and activities.
- PARP - Recently started and they brought in a puppeteer for the opening celebration. District administrators came in to read as guest readers.
- They had an Art Fair, the same day as the Book Fair and student council
- Science Fair - Parents came into classrooms to see students give presentations

Southdown Primary School

- Family Reflection is being done quarterly. Kids are happy there is no homework on these nights, and we are encouraging families to have conversations.
- Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's restaurant was well attended

- Science Fair preparation is underway. The event was well attended last year. This year parents will be invited to a daytime presentation.
- Family Fitness Night was well attended and parents fully participated in the event
- PARP recently ended
- Entire school is actively using Twitter
- We are coding with our 3rd grade students. Trainers have been brought in to train on scratch, and a Parent Night will be planned.
- Neighborhood Aide is helping to convey security policies to Spanish speaking parents
- Looking forward to participating in video conferencing with others in a long distance project sharing program

Washington Primary School

- Leadership team has coordinated a connection to Helping Hand Mission
- PTA events and Dual Language Night was well attended and feedback has been positive
- “Jammin in the Gym” is a fun school-wide event that is scheduled for this week
- PARP just began with an Olympic theme. Students read and decorate medals to see how many medals they can accumulate.
- Science Fair and Math Fair are combined this year
- A Give & Take bulletin board has been created. Kids leave notes or they can take notes of encouragement if they are having a rough day.
- Making Memories Program has been well received
- Planning a Health Snack Night for parents to educate them and give them ideas on how to plan healthy snacks for their children

SEPTA

- Coffee Talks have been very successful. These events highlighted information about accelerated math and how the Huntington Library can support student research needs.
- On 4/10/18 at 7:30 p.m. Giovanni Mendez from the High School will present a parent event about student anxiety
- SEPTA continues to support scholarships and grants but membership is down. They welcome input and hope to get the word out to encourage families to stop by and see what SEPTA offers.
- E-blasts are used to promote events to members, and the group discussed ways that each building could support promoting SEPTA events
- Keep an eye out for Sunset on the Sound. This will be coming up in May. Encourage teachers, staff and families to attend. It is a fun night that raises money to support SEPTA.

NANCY ALLARD – TITLE I

- Collaborating with buildings to support parent nights
- Through Title I funds, we are running the After School Extended Learning Program and the use of high school science teachers supporting our primary teachers
- UPK applications have been mailed

PTA COUNCIL

- PTA Coffee Talk with Mr. Polansky was very successful and well attended. It brought out more people than typical events. A follow up meeting will be held in April or May.
- National/State PTA supports advocacy, and although the state has provided \$250,000 in funding for mental health, PTA is fighting for a greater allocation of funds
- Grant money is available to support health and wellness. If any buildings are doing something in this area they can go online to complete the application and try to secure funds.
- Reflections Program was brought back this year. Although not every building supported the program, PTA Council was thrilled to hear that a Woodhull student will be going to the National Competition.

REPORT FROM BETH MCCOY

- Librarians now have access to Destiny and students can now access eBooks from home. Although our library of books is not extensive, budget funds have been allocated to support the development of our collection.
- Online reading opportunities at home are being supported through Title I funds
- Our 5th grade students are piloting two Social and Emotional Learning Programs. The goal is to incorporate these programs into the school day 20 – 30 minutes a couple of days a week. These programs will arm our students with the skills they need to navigate difficult situations.
- Science Pilot Program is underway with K-5 grades piloting OHM Program. Feedback has been positive.
- Our 6th grade students are piloting TCI Science Program
- We continue to plan a re-vamping of our Library Program. Computer Lab activities will be incorporated into the Library. Library will include makerspace, coding and keyboarding skills.
- Application for the SSAE Grant has been submitted. This is a federal grant that was done in conjunction with South Huntington and Wyandanch to support

acceleration, culturally responsive teaching and implicit bias as well as enhanced STEM opportunities.

- The After School Extended Learning Program is underway

NEW BUSINESS

No Report

FUTURE MEETINGS: May 29, 2018

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 Elizabeth Lopez and seconded by Michele Kustera to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m.