

IDEA TASK FORCE COALITION MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
Islip Public Schools ♦ 215 Main Street ♦ Islip, NY 11751 ♦ (631) 650-8300

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Islip North Community Watch

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**NY National Guard Counter Drug Task
Force**

Old South Islip Civic Association

Presbyterian Church of Islip

Rotary Club of the Islip's

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

South Islip Community Watch

South Shore Community Organization

South Saxon Community Watch

SC Department of Health Services

SC Legislature – 10th Leg District

SCPD Third Precinct COPE Unit

Syntax Communication

Trinity Lutheran Church

The Islip Elks Lodge #2533

Youth Enrichment Services

IDEA COALITION TASK FORCE

Minutes – February 5, 2018

7:00 p.m.; Islip High School Community Room

ATTENDEES: See sign-in sheet

7:01 p.m. Meeting opened by Mrs. Paehr and all welcomed. Mrs. Paehr asked that attendees quickly review the minutes from our last meeting, which were included in everyone's packet.

The minutes from December 4, 2017 were unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

- **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Mrs. Carr presented two spreadsheets detailing the expenditure of grant funds so far this year and the anticipated expenses going forward. Mrs. Schnebel noted that since the spreadsheet creation, some of the funding for presentations (High-Ding in Plain Sight; Chris Herren; Save-A-Life) would be provided by Islip North Community Watch Group, Rotary, and a grant from Senator Phil Boyle (through Legislator Tom Cilmi), eliminating the need to use DFC Grant funds. Other possible uses for the remaining funds, including the purchase of materials for district health classes, were discussed. The report was unanimously approved.
- Officer Wright was not in attendance, so there was no report from the SCPD/COPE.
- **PROJECT DIRECTOR** -- Mrs. Vouris is attending the CADCA National Leadership Forum this week, so Mrs. Schnebel provided a quick overview of her written report in her absence.
- **PROJECT COORDINATOR** – Mrs. Pennington updated everyone on the "High-Ding in Plain Sight" presentation scheduled for Thursday, March 8th. We are hoping this will be well-attended by parents. In answer to a question about capacity, it was explained that the Middle School Auditorium can hold 585 people. (It is an adult-only event.) Mr. Shoemaker will also be doing two assemblies for all grades at the MS the same day.
 - The HS visit to SES was very well received. Mrs. Pennington noted that the Teacher Prep class created lovely activities that garnered wonderful reactions from the students.

Ms. Hall distributed a packet of photos from the program and activities. Mr. Modica noted that these have also been posted on the IDEA Coalition website.

- Mrs. Pennington also shared that she worked with IHS social worker Donna Ruggiero on a presentation on relevant issues such as drugs, alcohol, anxiety, depression, etc. for the Superintendent's Roundtable meeting in January
- Game Night is all set for March 23rd
- **YOUTH COORDINATOR** – Mr. Modica reported that he has been updating the website weekly – adding events, photos to the gallery, and other information as needed.

He also updated everyone on his continued work with the Restorative Justice program at IHS and shared a sample of work created by a student who had a five-day in school suspension (name redacted). Through the program, instead of being put on a five day out of school suspension for infractions such as vaping, students are assigned to the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) in school for five days. They keep up with classwork and also have to complete a daily assignment related to their infraction. At the conclusion of suspension, many students have commented to Mr. Modica that they never knew how dangerous vaping is. They also enter into a contract with him and a meeting is held with the student, parents, and Mr. Modica before they are excused from the ALC. The program has allowed him to build positive relationships with many students who might not have had that with an adult before. He has also earned the respect of other students, who are more aware of his presence and concerned about being caught with vaping paraphernalia. Students also have shared information regarding vendors that are allegedly selling vaping products to minors.

Open Gym at the high school will resume once winter sports end. It is held on Fridays, 8:00-10:00 p.m. Game Night flyers and permission slips are being printed. Mr. Modica was able to get a donation of free cookie coupons from Panera for the event and will also be meeting with the elementary principals to promote it in their buildings.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST** – Ms. Hall mentioned that the activities from the "Where Oliver Fits" lesson by Teacher Prep students at Sherwood will be posted on the bulletin board outside the library.

Save-A-Life Tour will be visiting Islip High School to present to seniors on Senior Day, after the Senior Breakfast and before yearbook distribution. This

programis being funded through a grant from Senator Boyle and County Legislator Tom Cilmi.

VIBS will present to all 11th and 12th grade English classes, June 4th – June 6th. This was pushed to later in the year due to scheduling conflicts with AP exams and other events.

Ms. Hall is working to gather free resources to give parents and students at Game Night. Materials will be available in both English and Spanish wherever possible. We have already received cookie vouchers from Panera as one give away. Volunteers from the high school will help out.

- **CULTURAL LIAISON** – Mrs. Dengeles was unable to attend, but she did submit a report for the group. She is proposing a large event for CRES and SES at Hecksher Park. Mrs. Schnebel asked that the Task Force review her report and we will shelf the discussion of the event until she is able to present her ideas in person.
- **YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES (YES)** – Jessica Olsen-Hoek, Prevention Director at YES reported on the Too Good For Drugs program that recently concluded in Islip Middle School’s seventh grade classes. As part of this evidence-based program, students were given a pre- and post-test on their thoughts and attitudes on a number of topics, including goal setting, following through, choosing good friends, etc. These were given to a random sample of 88 students. All 12 questions on the survey showed an increase. Highlights included 31% more students reporting help in stress reduction strategies; 28% increase in reaching goals; 20% increase in thinking about consequences; 17% increase in strategies to refuse peer pressure; and 14% increase in students believing their friends would not want them to use drugs/alcohol. Mrs. Paehr requested that the full survey results be emailed to the IDEA membership.

Teachers were also given the opportunity to evaluate the YES instructors, as they remain in the room during lessons so they can learn and reinforce terminology.

- **POST PROM** – Mr. Austin reported that the Post Prom sub-committee met on January 30th, with 19 people in attendance. They have decided to go with one vendor this year, who will provide everything (and more) that the three vendors used in the past have, for the same price. This includes music, lights, games, a photo booth, caricaturist, and adult face painter.

He is also working with the Junior Prom people to share some of the items, including 11 bolts of tulle which have been ordered and a magnet-hook system for hanging items from the ceiling. He is coordinating the construction of 25-30 pictures for an op-art wall that will be lit by black light with Mr. Green. Prop construction will begin on March 1st, and there will be a Paint Party fundraiser on April 19th (details to follow).

Mr. Austin also mentioned that the Junior Prom committee is looking for artificial flowers and plants to create a "Gatsby Garden" in the lobby. Mrs. Paehr suggested that he reach out to Gus or Pete at O-Con-Nee Diner, as they are usually willing to loan items.

OLD BUSINESS

Bach Harrison Survey – As part of the Superintendent's Roundtable discussion noted by Mrs. Pennington in her report, Mrs. Schnebel put together a PowerPoint presentation that included some of the results of this year's administration. It was noted that the Social Host Law and Cancel the Keg hotline seem to be working, as the number of keg parties has gone down.

One item discussed with the Roundtable was the increase in the number of students reporting getting into cars with drinking drivers. The students noted that these drives were not peers, but rather a parent or older sibling. While they are uncomfortable getting in the car, they don't know how to say this to them. Mr. Henning noted that any refusal would need to be something that is laid out early, refusing an intoxicated authority figure/adult could create a volatile situation. A discussion followed regarding looking at our strategies. It was noted that when a parent comes to pick up a child from school and appears impaired in some way, we will not release the child to them. One possible explanation for the increase is an increase in awareness about the issue of driving after drinking by children. They may be more aware of an adult drinking, but are they drunk?

Another risk factor brought to the Superintendent's Roundtable was adult anti-social behavior. Mrs. Schnebel noted that the students indicated that adult behavior on social media (e.g. Facebook) is worse than that of children/teens. The students also pointed to the behavior of adults at sporting events. This led to a conversation about putting together a policy outlining appropriate and inappropriate behavior by parents/spectators at school events, using Section XI and NYSPHSAA guidelines. Mr. Sparacio is putting together a committee of coaches and physical education teachers to start putting together something. He is also implementing a program for sixth grade parents, so as they transition to seventh grade they have an introduction to interscholastic sports, which

would include a discussion of appropriate behavior. It was noted that this kind of inappropriate behavior by adults is not limited to athletic events, but is often seen and concerts at musicals, as well.

Chris Herren – He will be returning to Islip on May 23rd. This time around, he will be presenting to our 10th and 11th graders only. Thanks to Mr. Carballo and Islip North Community Watch Group, who will be supporting this program through their Department of Justice Grant. Mrs. Schnebel noted that this may be the last presentation of the program for now, and that we should find another (possibly more sustainable) program.

Suffolk County Heroin and Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel – Mrs. Schnebel provided a report from the panel’s meeting in January that included highlights and statistics from the Medical Examiner’s office. The panel is making a recommendation for more education programs, including more work on mindfulness and making a calm choice. One situation noted at the meeting was a case when SCPD went to the same house three times in one night for the same kind of issue. Opiates have gotten much stronger, due to Fentanyl, so most victims are now requiring two ‘hits’ of the 2mL narcan. More funding is needed for 4mL doses. SCPD has unveiled the PIVOT program, where they work with families of those who overdose to provide them with resources. This has met with some success. While Islip does not have the highest number of cases in Suffolk County, they do have a high percentage, due to the smaller population. Because of the increase in strength of opiates, there is now a push to those who use to do so with someone else, so there is someone who can call for help if something goes wrong. In fact, Mayor DiBlasio recently proposed safe places to shoot up in New York City.

Game Night- The details on this event have been pretty well covered through reports given earlier.

NEW BUSINESS

Townwide Task Force – Supervisor Angie Carpenter asked Mrs. Schnebel to sit on an advisory committee to get this started.

Islip North Community Watch – Mr. Carballo shared that the group was hosting a speaker from South Oaks at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12th at Rusy Bohm American Legion. He will email a flyer to Mrs. Carr for distribution to the coalition.

Logos – Mr. Modica worked with his sister-in-law, who is a graphic designer, to create some options for a new logo for IDEA as part of our branding strategy. He shared his six favorites and the group discussed the options. Choice three was selected, with an adjustment of lining the gold letters in purple. Mr. Modica will get the RGB/Pantone values for the colors used to Mrs. Carr, so they can be incorporated in future publications.

Tri-Fold Brochure – The new logo and color scheme will be incorporated into this brochure, which was shared with the group. Mrs. Carr noted that thoughts and suggestions for the brochure were welcome.

FINAL NOTES/COMMENTS

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi noted that he gets reports from SCPD regarding violations of laws regarding the sale of vape pens/materials to minors. (You must be 21+ to purchase in Suffolk County). He asked that we share any reports of sales we hear about to him, and he will let us know about any local arrests.

There is nothing new to report in regards to the Social Host Law, as it has been fairly quiet in our area since the summer. Youth member Madeline Marconi noted that the number of parties with alcohol has decreased since her freshmen year. Her perception is that fewer parties is leading to less teen drinking. The reality is that the Social Host Law is resonating, especially since it is now a misdemeanor, not a violation. Kids are always going to experiment (it's crazy to think they're not), but we need to help facilitate the societal changes to make partying/binge drinking more difficult by reducing opportunities when they are able to drink. One effort we're making to educate students on the dangers of binge drinking is a new health class that is being offered at Islip High School next year, Contemporary Issues in Women's Health. Mrs. Schnebel thanked Mr. Sparcio for putting this option together for our students.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 19, 2018

8:35 p.m. Meeting adjourned