

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

**Islip Public Schools**

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**Great South Bay YMCA**

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**Islip Fire Department**

**Islip North Community Watch**

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**Long Island Prevention Resource Center (LIPRC)**

**Northwell Health Southside Hospital**

**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 – 10<sup>th</sup> Leg District**

**SCPD Third Precinct COPE Unit**

**Syntax Communication**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**The Islip Elks Lodge #2533**

**Youth Enrichment Services**

**MINUTES – September 25, 2019**

**7:00 p.m., Islip High School Community Room**

ATTENDEES: See sign-in sheet (copy attached)

6:59 p.m. Mrs. Paehr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back from the summer. Noting that there were several new student members present, she asked attendees to go around the table to introduce themselves. The new youth members represent the senior and sophomore classes at Islip High School.

As a reminder to the new members (and the whole group), Mrs. Paehr reviewed meeting guidelines, noting the more informal structure, but requesting that individuals avoid talking over one another.

Mrs. Paehr then asked everyone to review the minutes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. As there were no questions, the minutes were accepted as written.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Carr shared the financial reports, noting that all encumbered expenses for grant year 8 have been paid. When the Federal Financial Report is filed for this grant year, a request will be made to rollover the unused grant funds from the year (\$5,933.91) for use during grant year 9.

7:05 p.m. **REPORTS**

The COPE officer (SCPD rep) was not in attendance, so this report was skipped.

- **CO-PROJECT DIRECTORS** – Dr. Martin reported that he met with Eddie Fraser, the vice-president of Community Relations from Northwell Health, regarding fundraising. Mr. Fraser stressed that a not for profit cannot raise money for another not for profit. He did, however, share that Northwell has an entire outreach and education program that he oversees. He will provide IDEA with a brochure of all of the programs for review, and the coalition can look to incorporate these at no charge. The programs are for all age groups, including K-12 students, parents, and the community at large, so this could prove to be a great resource.

## REPORTS:

Dr. Martin also noted that this year should focus on sustainability for when the grant funds end. We need to look at where we can be present at events and when we can run them. He is looking to work on continuing to foster the cooperation of student organizations, such as Athletes Helping Athletes (dodgeball tournaments); the National Junior Honor Society (100 Minutes of Movement); and the Youth sector representatives/other student volunteers (Meet the Teacher Nights). He is looking to really tap into the community service hour requirement for graduation and for membership in many district organizations.

Mrs. Vouris reported that she had made contact with the Town of Islip's Public Information Office to talk about bringing back the Town proclamation for Red Ribbon Week. Specifically, they are looking to have a photo op with Supervisor Angie Carpenter and the school/students. Mrs. Vouris thought this could be coordinated with Ms. Hall, who does a nice job of decorating the HS lobby for Red Ribbon Week. She suggested that both HS and MS students, coordinated with Dr. Martin, participate in the photo op. Mrs. Paehr recommended that in addition to the Supervisor and Islip students, that the chair of the Town of Islip Opioid Task Force also be invited to help us build some bridges with this community group.

Mrs. Vouris also shared several upcoming community events, including a Shed the Meds event in the Islip Public Library on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and noon and "The Ugly Truth at the Islip Public Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Ugly Truth does conflict with our Save Your Breath event with Tim Shoemaker that same evening.

The final community activity Mrs. Vouris shared was the "Islip Goes Purple" initiative which will kick off on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. An informative flyer about this event was included in the packet. Ms. Mayott asked that as many people as possible show up to the kick off at Town Hall beginning at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow evening. Businesses along Main Street have been given purple light bulbs, and the cupola on Town Hall will also be lit in purple. Purple banners have also been hung along Main Street. Purple is symbolic of recovery, as September is Recovery Month, following Recovery Awareness Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Vouris said she will attend. Mrs. Whitehouse requested that information on this project be shared earlier next year, if possible. Ms. Mayott noted that the plans are to expand the initiative beyond Islip hamlet next year and more notice will be given now that the program has gotten underway.

- **PROJECT COORDINATORS** – Mrs. Whitehouse is working on a big project with Dr. Martin – a dodgeball tournament for grades 9-12. The plan was originally to hold this in the evening, but they decided to have it after school (from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.). The event will be held over the course of three days (November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>) with grades 9 and 10 competing in separate gyms on the first day; grades 11 and 12 in separate gyms the second day; and then the grade level champions competing to earn the

school champion on the final day. This team will then play against a team of teachers. Mrs. Whitehouse noted that this will be a completely voluntary event and is something extra the students can do if they want. Students will put together their own teams and can dress in the same color shirt and give themselves a team name. There will be a separate permission slip for each grade, with each one printed on a different color paper. This event is being held in conjunction with student government. The cost is \$5 per student, and there will be five students per team. The proceeds will go directly to each class (e.g. ninth grade registration fees will go to the class of 2023). Since this will be the first time for this event, they don't know what to expect in terms of the number of teams. For this year, they will also not allow any spectators. This will be a test year to see how everything goes. Security is one question that needs to be addressed prior to the event.

Mrs. Brown asked if this is an IDEA or school event. She feels that IDEA needs to have more than just a table present. Mr. Modica stated that the students need to know why we are doing this. Per Mrs. Whitehouse, all of the permission slips for the event will include the IDEA name/logo. Dr. Semel pointed out that if IDEA funds are being used to support the event, any revenue cannot then be donated to the high school classes. According to Dr. Martin there really is no overhead; the only potential cost would be added security, if it is decided that this is needed. Mrs. Vouris noted the importance of tapping into substance-free events, or events with reduced access for students.

In the discussion that followed, the issue of school vs. community arose. While these kinds of events are about providing students something to do that offer healthy alternatives, the DFC grant also requires the coalition to work with the entire community, not just the schools. Mrs. Paehr suggested that we consider piggybacking community activities with these kinds of student events going forward. A decision was made to pilot the dodgeball tournament to see how it goes, as everyone is in favor of giving children opportunities for healthy choices. It will be done as a pilot, and revisions will be made based on the outcome. This may include adding a community component.

- **YOUTH COORDINATOR** – Mr. Modica reported that the IDEA website (<https://www.islipideacoalition.org/>) got a lot of action over the summer, with a number of people reaching out to him via email to provide him with more resources for the site. One addiction counselor in particular, Riley Johnson, who works with an addiction center, provided a lot of new links.

Mr. Modica is also once again working with the YMCA to provide students the opportunity to use these facilities after school. This program will begin on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and students will have access on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Suffolk Transportation Services donates a bus to provide Islip High School students transportation to the Y on Tuesdays and Fridays. No transportation is provided on Saturdays, but it was noted that the YMCA hosts a teen night for 13-17 year olds every Saturday night. They also have a pre-teen night on Fridays. Mr. Modica also noted that in order to participate in this program, students have to have their parents sign two permission slips – one for the YMCA and one from the school district. Dr. Semel

suggested that information on the pre-teen and teen nights at the YMCA be posted on the school district website – under the Parent/Students tab and/or the Community tab. Dr. Martin asked if we could perhaps do a ConnectEd blast to promote it, as well. Rather than directly naming the YMCA, Dr. Semel said she could send a message directing parents to view new resources on the website.

The Open Gym program will again run on Thursday nights, and Mr. Modica will be inviting MS students to participate this year. Dr. Martin asked about advertising/promoting this, as it was the first he had heard about it. Mr. Modica will get a digital flyer for Dr. Martin to share.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST** – Ms. Hall reported that we currently have two parent/community presentations scheduled for this fall. The first will be on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and is titled Vaping: Save Your Breath. The presenter of this program is Timothy Shoemaker, who did the High-Ding in Plain Sight program for us a couple of years ago. The second program is on the effects of addition on the teenage brain and will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Stephen Dewey, the presenter, shared this information with our high school students last year. Both programs are being held in the MS Auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m., but we are also offering free naloxone training through LICADD prior to the main presentations. Flyers for both programs were available at the IDEA table during the MS and HS Meet the Teacher Nights.

Ms. Hall will once again be coordinating the “Kindness Rocks” project at the HS during Red Ribbon Week. In addition, she is working the PTSA on a mural for the hallway that will feature student-decorated hands.

Thank yous were offered to new youth members who are working to cultivate new members and did so much work to help out at the Meet the Teacher nights.

One project Ms. Hall and Mr. Rempe are working on this year is with Islip Travel Baseball and Islip Little League. The two are working to get a “Strike Out Drugs” patch placed on the uniform shirts for both groups of teams. Mr. Rempe noted that this is a good time of year to work on this, as the fall is when the leadership of Travel Baseball and Little League are looking at these kinds of things. He noted that Islip Travel Baseball is absolutely receptive to this, and they are now just working on specifics. Little League may take more conversation to get this to happen. Ms. Hall expressed gratitude to Mr. Rempe for all of his legwork to get this going.

- **CULTURAL LIAISON** – Mrs. Dengeles was unable to attend the meeting and did not submit a report.
- **POST PROM** – Mr. Austin was unable to attend, so Mrs. Carr shared his report. Post Prom 2019 was another success, with just over 200 students in attendance. Over \$13,000 in gifts and prizes were distributed to Islip seniors, including three cash prizes totaling \$3,500. Even the breakdown/clean-up went well.

Work has already begun for the 2020 event, with a sign up table planned for Meet the Teacher Night at the High School on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The table will also feature the first fundraiser of the year – a raffle for a gas fire pit. The first parent meeting for the event will be held on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Other plans include a table at the Islip Street Fair on October 20<sup>th</sup> and a Paint Night Fundraiser on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Graduation lawn signs will also be sold again this year. Current theme contenders from the senior class include Whiteout and Roaring 20s, but no final decision has been made yet.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Planning for IDEA's Future** – Dr. Martin put together a spreadsheet of events, programs, and other activities already planned for this year (or done in the past). In this spreadsheet, he tried to identify the key players for each item, the time of year it has historically been done, and which of the seven key strategies it addresses. He also looked at the age appropriateness of each activity/event, noting who should have access. This can assist in identifying where help is needed and what resources are needed for each. He also tried to layout the events through the school calendar year and evaluate the cost of each. For sustainability purposes, need to assess how these costs can be picked up going forward. Are there other events/opportunities for IDEA to have a presence? Dr. Martin noted that there are always opportunities for things, e.g. IDEA could have a presence at Homecoming.

Dr. Semel noted that one of the events already scheduled for the District where IDEA could/should have a presence in the Special Olympics on June 6, 2020. She feels this would be a win-win for both organizations. Statistics show that drug use amongst special needs students is high, and that this group is more likely to use for a variety of reasons. She suggested we put together a small committee to start working on this now to decide what kind of presence we would like to have for this event. A sign-up sheet for this sub-committee was passed around.

Mrs. Whitehouse noted that she will be submitting a proposal for professional development through My Learning Plan for volunteers to receive training for Special Olympics. Mrs. Vouris suggested the sub-committee should generate a list of contacts for possible donations of refreshments IDEA could supply, such as water bottles or snacks. It was noted that Terry Going, the chair of Special Olympics is already working with a number of sub-committees and has put together a lot of these kinds of resources already.

As far as how/where IDEA would have a presence at Special Olympics, Mr. Henning noted that space would likely be provided in the Olympic Village.

Ms. Hall asked if there was a way we can provide t-shirts for volunteers at events such as this. According to Mrs. Paehr, DFC grant funds can be used to purchase branded items like this, and she asked that we investigate the costs of doing so. Dr. Martin suggested that something like this be married with existing clubs at both the middle and high schools, so the shirts don't become a one-time consumable thing. For clarity purposes, Mrs. Paehr suggested we look into having

nice shirts made for organization members (those that volunteer regularly), and less expensive, more 'consumable' shirts that can be given to ad hoc volunteers for one-time use situations. This would help make our mission and presence known in the community.

- **Red Ribbon Week** – Discussed during reports
- **Upcoming Parent Presentations** - Discussed during reports
- **Fundraising Committee Report** – Ms. Mayott had to leave, but left a note with Dr. Martin noting that she will bring more ideas for fundraising to our next meeting. Mrs. Paehr noted that the coalition existed for a long time without the DFC grant funds. We do not need to come with \$125,000 every year. Mrs. Vouris added that we have not yet gotten our 501c3 designation, which would assist with fundraising. Mr. Henning asked why this has not been done yet, as it was discussed last year. It was noted that there were fees associated with getting the designation, as well as ongoing filing and accounting expenses. The group was asked if this was something the coalition should pursue, and if anyone knew of a resource we could tap into to assist with the process. Mrs. Vouris and Mrs. Paehr will do more research and reach out to some possible resources and bring back more information for the next meeting.
- **Legislative Update** – Discussion was tabled, as Legislator Cilmi was unable to attend the meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment** – Sixth and eighth graders will be taking this survey during social studies class on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>; tenth graders will be doing so during English on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Both dates were selected to fall within Red Ribbon Week. Passive consent letters for the survey administration will be mailed home to all parents. A question was asked about what the coalition would like to do with the data once everything was collected and analyzed. Will there be a public reporting of some kind? Mrs. Vouris noted that the survey has to be read to the students at the sixth grade level. She suggested that an audio recording be done, rather than asking teachers to read it to the classes themselves. Dr. Semel noted that it is important to provide a Spanish translation of the survey, as she would like to capture the information for this at-risk population. She will investigate getting this translation prior to the administration.
- **Staff Resignations** – Postings for this year's staff positions have gone out and letters of interest are due to Dr. Semel by Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Both Mrs. Pennington (co-project coordinator) and Mrs. Dengeles (cultural liaison) have tendered letters of resignation and will not be continuing in their positions for the coming year. Mrs. Paehr requested that letters be sent to both thanking them for their years of service to the coalition. Dr. Semel and Mrs. Carr will take care of this.

- **2019-2020 Meeting Schedule** – The group discussed possible changes to meeting dates, times, and locations for the coming year. Through consensus, it was decided that whenever possible, meetings would remain on Tuesday nights, but with a 6:30 p.m. start time. For now, these will continue to be held in the HS Community Room, with the possibility of a new set up/arrangement if more attendees necessitate.

In a review of the school district’s calendar, the following meeting dates/times were selected:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 24, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 30, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Given the limited number of available evenings, sub-committees will be asked to meet more frequently and report at full coalition meetings. To start, Joe Modica and Peggy Brown will plan for a meeting on a Monday after school in November to plan for the Holiday Parade on December 7, 2019. Mrs. Paehr also suggested that additional sub-committee meetings be scheduled as needed in October and May.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Paehr noted her appreciation to everyone for their time this evening, and thanked all of the students who attended.

Ms. Hall added that she will do some research on the t-shirts for volunteers.

8:37 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.