

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

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Rotary Club of the Islip's

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South Islip Community Watch

South Shore Community Organization

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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 – September 4, 2018

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

ATTENDEES: See sign-in sheet (copy attached)

6:59 p.m. Meeting opened by Mrs. Paehr and all welcomed.

Mrs. Paehr invited Dr. Ellen Semel, Islip School District's new Superintendent, to say a few words. Dr. Semel introduced herself, welcomed everyone, and spoke briefly on the importance of the Coalition. With many new faces in attendance, Mrs. Paehr then asked everyone to introduce themselves and their representative sector.

Attendees were then asked to quickly review minutes from the last meeting in April. These minutes from April 16, 2018 were accepted as read unanimously.

REPORTS:

- **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Mrs. Carr presented the current financial report, highlighting expenditures since last meeting. She noted that any funds we planned to use before the end of the grant cycle needed to be encumbered by June 30, 2018, due to the District fiscal year ending that day. Thus, our expenditures since April were quite high. These expenditures included:
 - \$255.20 for "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" signs
 - \$20,707.74 to various vendors for curriculum support materials for health and character education programs
 - \$16,510 to staff for second half-year stipends
 - \$1,150 for student assembly program on distracted driving for seniors
 - \$21,284 to Youth Enrichment Services (YES), the second half payment per contract for programs and support
 - \$6,300 for mobile security for Islip High School's senior prom
 - \$3,917.24 for laptops for IDEA Coalition staff
 - \$2,200 for social emotional program leadership training for administrators and IDEA staff

Mrs. Carr also reviewed the Federal Financial Report filed for the third quarter of the grant cycle, as well as the final anticipated expenditures for this grant year, including branded items discussed in April and a student assembly program at Islip High School in late September.

- **PROJECT DIRECTOR** – Mrs. Paehr asked that everyone read and review Mrs. Vouris' written report (*attached*), as she had not yet arrived.
- **YOUTH COORDINATOR** – Mr. Modica reviewed his goals for the 18-19 school year. He noted that he received a lot of positive feedback on the IDEA Coalition website over the summer and has added new items. A new staff member, Angelina Lange, will join him in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) this year. Mr. Modica will also be operating the open gym nights again this year, starting in October. He is hoping to add Friday nights in an effort to keep kids off the streets. He will also be working with Ms. Hall and teacher prep classes to organize visits to our elementary schools. The YMCA program will begin in October, but he is starting to recruit students now, as he aims to have a full bus load each time this year.

Game Night will also continue this year, but Mr. Modica is looking to include an outdoor event, such as a kickball tournament, plus all of the side games, holding it on the turf field. He is considering inviting parents to attend and/or participate, as well. Other possible events will be added throughout the year. Mr. Modica is looking to make our mission more forward, promoting it to our attendees, students, and parents so they not only know what we are doing, but why, as well. Mrs. Whitehouse suggested that a brief speech be given at Meet the Teacher nights, instead of just having a table. Another suggestion was having a parent presentation in conjunction with Game Night, asking them to return half an hour before pick up.

- **PROJECT COORDINATOR** – Mrs. Patricia Whitehouse reported that she and Mrs. Pennington will be working together as project coordinators this year. Mrs. Whitehouse and the District's physical education teachers will be attending training for Too Good for Drugs in October. She will report back on this training afterward. She noted that vaping is a tremendous issue with students. There is a plan to provide the Too Good for Drugs program in grades K-8. Second and third grades will be taught by Mrs. Whitehouse, and YES will continue to work in grades four and five. Mrs. Whitehouse and Mrs. Pennington will work together at the middle school (grades 6-8) through advisory and health and physical education classes.

Plans are also under way for Red Ribbon Week. Theatre Three will be visiting Islip Middle School with a presentation/assembly on bullying and making better decisions. Other programs at the MS will include Mrs. Pennington presenting the 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens and Mrs. Whitehouse visiting Advisory Homerooms across all grade levels (6, 7, & 8) to integrate work she's doing with the Advisory Committee. A piece on vaping will be introduced in 6th grade, then they will work more intensely with 7th and 8th graders (all will be age-appropriate). Ms. Pennington will also work with students individually, addressing concerns with friends using vapes, etc., as needed.

Mrs. Vouris requested that Mrs. Whitehouse integrate pre and post work surveys with students so we may have data on the effectiveness of the Too Good for Drugs program. Jessica Olsen-Hoek from YES will assist Mrs. Whitehouse in putting this together. Mary Ann Pfeiffer noted that having the program at all grade levels will really help us see results. YES can continue to provide what grades we need now, as well as provide any support for us to continue to expand.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST** – Ms. Hall recapped the end of the 17-18 school year, including Senior Day on June 1st. Save-A-Life tour presented a program on distracted and drunk driving as part of the day's events. A review of the post-event survey was shared. Ms. Hall felt it was a great program, and she would like to have them return. Another program she would definitely like to bring back for IHS students is VIBS. Small group interviews after this program provided positive feedback. SEPTA representative Fred Henning suggested we may want to bring this down to younger grades, perhaps the MS level. VIBS is able to gear the program toward different populations.

Ms. Hall shared her goals for the 18-19 school year. Red Ribbon Week will see the return of the painting of inspirational rocks for the HS courtyard, and facts about substance abuse and drugs will be shared daily on the announcements over the course of the week. Another program being promoted during the announcements is the Operation Prevention PSA scholarship program. Since the age range for entry begins at 13, Mrs. Whitehouse can bring this to the MS, as well, for 8th graders. Another goal is to ensure that our events are being posted to the IDEA Instagram account.

Upcoming table set-up opportunities include Meet the Teacher nights and Curriculum Night. Our Youth Sector members will be able to help man the tables and share information with parents. Ms. Hall has created a Remind group text for them and has also met with their parents about IDEA and the students' role.

Other possible assemblies we may consider bringing into the District include The Addict's Diary, an addict in recovery who speaks about his experience and shares his story with you. The presenter is a local Long Island resident from Massapequa. He also does parent presentations, so we may want to consider bringing him in this year instead of Tim Shoemaker. Mrs. Paehr suggested we find a presentation he is doing locally so some of our members can attend to see what he does.

Claudia Hutchinson-Stewart noted that there are other ways to reach parents and the community, beyond Chris Herren, including, perhaps something peer-to-peer. Mrs. Whitehouse mentioned Outreach House in Brentwood, which offers a program for students in recovery there come into schools and speak to students. There was some concern that this almost seemed to glorify substance abuse and/or does not always come off as genuine, as they often appear to be 'coached' to say things. This may be a better program for parents – where are they getting stuff, and where are they hiding it? Mary Ann Pfeiffer noted that sharing stories of recovery works for other people in recovery, but is not as powerful for kids. The message is they made it through. We are

better off focusing resources on evidence-based programs and statistics, as getting the most 'bang for the buck' is important. We are looking for true prevention for students, using those who are non-dabblers, not those who binge drink every weekend. We need to think about what we want our message to be as a committee. Kids are risk takers by nature; we are trying to minimize the risks they take. We need to get to them and let them know it's okay and that you don't have to do these things to be 'cool.' It's hard, but we have to find those who can tell them what they can do instead.

The College & Career Planning class has 50 students registered this year. Once college application season is over (in January), this class will have the opportunity to bring in speakers for the students. SCPD, VIBS, and other groups are all possibilities. Community Connector Peggy Brown recommends having recent HS grads who are now in college visit to share information and thoughts with our current seniors.

Georgiann Dolan-Reilly from the Long Island Prevention Resource Center asked if there are any community or parent events planned for Red Ribbon Week. She noted that each year Red Ribbon Week has a theme, and printables with this theme are available for download on their website (redribbon.org). Another suggestion was to create a SnapChat/social media filter for Red Ribbon Week. A sign up sheet was passed around for those interested in helping promote community involvement for Red Ribbon Week.

- **POST PROM** – It was another successful event in June. Everything was set up and ready to go on Tuesday evening, so parents were able to help their seniors get ready and take pictures. The early bird raffle was successful, with 111 of the 167 attendees arriving in time to be eligible. Mrs. Paehr noted that one of the members of the Elks had moved to New Jersey, but he came all the way back to Islip to help out on the night of the event. She also noted that she did not smell any alcohol during check-in.

A meeting was held with the core committee members after the event. They reviewed some of the growing pains and will make some changes based on what they learned. Mr. Austin will sit with the class officers and find out what they would like this year's theme to be. They are trying to limit rentals and increase the purchase of materials that can be reused over the years. Post Prom is willing to share some of these resources with other school groups, as well. Mr. Austin also wanted to extend thanks to Friends of the Arts, who passed on many of their materials to Post Prom.

On a final note, Mrs. Whitehouse mentioned that she does have a video of the very first Post Prom that she would like to get to Mr. Austin.

OLD BUSINESS

- **BRANDING** – Mrs. Carr shared proofs for some of the items we will be ordering, including the magnets, retractable sign, banner, and tablecloth. Some simple edits (adding/removing periods) were suggested, as well as adding social media and/or web address to the sign and magnets. A better web address will be needed in order to

do this, as the current one is cumbersome. Mr. Modica will look into this, and Mrs. Carr will research registering a domain (something like IslipIDEA.org).

Other suggestions were made regarding the placement of the logo on the tablecloth and considering adding more text to the banner (there is a lot of white space on this). Mrs. Carr will make the edits and reach out to the printer to get things ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FUN RUN** – Dr. Semel reminded the group that once our DFC grant runs out, we are no longer eligible for SAMHSA grant funds. Going back a number of years, we did a Fun Run in the early days of IDEA. Mrs. Whitehouse was very involved with this, and the event was coupled with a health fair. It was a tremendous community event, and money, in part, was raised by people paying to have a booth/table at the health fair. We didn't make a ton of money, and it was a tremendous amount of work. Dr. Semel does believe we could raise more funds do this, plus generate good will within the community. A Fun Run for kids could be done at the same time.

Mrs. Vouris asked if this was something we could link with the District Wellness Committee. The health fair piece could be coordinated by them. Mrs. Brown suggested Northwell Health for possible funding and/or as a resource. Mrs. Paehr noted that if we are game, we all need to be willing to roll up our sleeves and help. Legislator Cilmi noted that there are many more runs/similar events out there now than there were ten years ago.

It was suggested that we research other types of runs (Tough Mudder; Spartan; Color; etc.) and/or groups who will organize the event for us, so we have some options. Mr. Henning will do some research. Our National Guard Counter Drug Task Force members noted that they may have access to a rock climbing wall we can use for this event, if we want.

COMMITTEES – Some topics we need to work on:

- Membership Recruitment – Mr. Austin, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Vouris – reach out to sectors to make connections and networking to get more representatives.
- Fundraising – Mrs. Paehr has asked Ms. Mayott to co-chair this committee with Mrs. Vourise. Mr. Modica will work on this, as well.
- Media & Communications – Ms. Hall and Gabriel Manzuetta (NYNG CDTF), along with Legislator Cilmi will work on this.
- Mental Health – Legislator Cilmi and Barbara Vouris are both certified in Mental Health First Aid. We can have a contact come and give a presentation to the group. Mrs. Vouris will give the contact information to Dr. Semel, and she will reach out to schedule a visit at future IDEA meeting.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

- Legislator Cilmi noted that the Connetquot Cares Coalition has an event scheduled for the end of October at CM Performing Arts. It is a play on addiction, and it may be something to see, in case we may want to bring it to Islip. Ms. Dolan-Reilly noted that this is a free event to the public being put together by a performing arts group that has worked with CCC to revise the play.
- Dr. Semel shared that the latest journal from ASCD reported studies on children that experience traumatic events (lose of parent, witnessing a violent incident, experiencing violence in the home, etc.). It has been noticed that once a child experiences a traumatic event, they are three times as likely to try alcohol or drugs (to self-medicate the pain they are feeling). A stable school environment and schools that offer mental health services can help reverse the effects of traumatic experience.

Mrs. Paehr thanked everyone for a great year.

8:40 p.m. Meeting adjourned