

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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The Islip Elks Lodge #2533

Youth Enrichment Services

IDEA COALITION TASK FORCE

Minutes – November 6, 2018

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

ATTENDEES: See sign-in sheet (copy attached)

7:00 p.m. Meeting opened by Mrs. Paehr and all welcomed. New attendees asked to introduce themselves. New Youth Sector representative Juliana Marconi, a ninth grader at Islip High School and Brandy Amodio, LCSW and Islip alum. Ms. Amodio had reached out via email to Ms. Hall, who invited her to join us.

7:04 p.m. The minutes from the October 2nd meeting were reviewed and approved as is.

7:05 p.m. A written financial report was provided in Mrs. Carr's absence. This was reviewed and approved.

REPORTS:

- **PROJECT DIRECTOR** – Mrs. Vouris has been networking for partners and resources for the coalition. A print out of the sustainability plan submitted to CADCA was shared and skimmed through. With only two and a half years left in our last DFC grant, we need to start thinking about revenue streams and researching ways to generate income to fund our programs.

Mrs. Vouris will be going this Friday to get more resources. It was suggested that we secure something mobile to help transport all of the resources we currently have. There may be a cart in the building somewhere that may be used by the coalition.

The steps for obtaining 501(c)3 status was attached to Mrs. Vouris report, as was information on the 911 Good Samaritan Law. Mr. Modica will post the latter on the IDEA website. (This is linked to the District website, and the information on it is constantly being updated.)

Our CADCA membership will expire in December. It costs \$300 to renew, which includes materials and resources. If we renew it, Mrs. Vouris can also share the membership number for online training discounts and webinars. This renewal was approved.

Mrs. Vouris will email the [link to the CADCA website](#) and information to all.

- **PROJECT COORDINATOR** – Mrs. Whitehouse recapped Red Ribbon Week at the Middle School. For eight days, the lessons during Advisory were on making good choices. The eighth graders did a literature review on vaping, and pictures of this project were shared. Three advisories attended per session, for a total of 30-40 students with 3-4 teachers each time. Mrs. Whitehouse spoke about the dangers of vaping and shared free resources. It was very successful. Four students received individual counseling on vaping from Mrs. Pennington. Mrs. Whitehouse has reached out to parents to share literature.

In addition, Theatre Three presented to all grade levels on bullying, bystanders, and kindness. Parents were very receptive to the IDEA booth at the Spooktacular on October 30th. There were guessing games and candy at the table to attract students, and the new magnets were available, as well. Turnout was huge.

Too Good for Drugs training has begun in the second and third grade physical education classes. CRES has also instituted a social-emotional time period.

- **YOUTH COORDINATOR** – Mr. Modica and Mrs. Carr updated the Wix account where our website is hosted to a paid version, which allows for more memory and eliminates advertising on our pages. This also enabled us to use the [new domain name](#). Mr. Modica has done some fundraising and will refund the cost of the upgrade to the anonymous donor. An image of the magnet has been added to the home page on the site, as well as several events, including the Holiday Parade, planetarium visit, and free programs at the Islip Public Library. He also added in a “Did You Know?” fact that Mrs. Whitehouse provided.

It was suggested that we have a new training for staff and parents about the new devices being used for vaping. (Perhaps something similar to the Timothy Shoemaker event we hosted last year.) Mr. Modica is adding all of the photos and descriptions of updated drugs to the website. He is also investigating how to track how many hits the site gets. Mr. Sparacio will put the website up on the television outside his office.

In regards to vaping, Mrs. Whitehouse noted that you may now purchase over the counter nicotine tests from Amazon. The question was raised regarding penalties for selling vapes to minors. Do they differ for each different device (e.g. ‘cart,’ ‘mile,’ juul, etc.)? Mr. Modica will speak to Mr. Flynn about it.

The Restorative Justice program is helping to illuminate how dangerous these are. Mr. Modica wants to also target the younger students, perhaps in conjunction with Game Night – maybe a presentation on vaping before the event? Should we consider a presenter? We need to add the *education* piece.

A question was raised about how early we can start talking about vaping. Dr. Semel suggested fifth grade, and Mrs. Whitehouse noted that the second and third grade Too Good for Drugs program includes lessons on nicotine and prescription drugs. Mrs. Dengeles added that the internet is exposing younger students (as young as second grade) to the topic. There is also the risk of misinformation being spread at the younger level through peer conversations. We have to get parents ready to have conversations and provide GOOD information. Teach them what to say, as they just aren't knowledgeable enough. We need to tailor our mission to educate the parents to have those "courageous conversations." Mrs. Whitehouse suggested that we collect the confiscated items to show parents. Mr. Modica noted that parents do not know what they are looking for. The coalition agreed to research possible speakers and have a presentation for the younger parents.

Open Gym is running every Thursday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. Mr. Modica has noticed improvement in grades, attendance, and behavior in those who participate. About 30 kids show up each week, and they are motivated to come.

Around 35-40 students are taking advantage of the YMCA bus (thank you to Suffolk Transportation for the donation!) on Tuesdays and Fridays. The program started on October 30th.

We are looking to hold Game Night for grades 5-8 in March. In the past, the majority of the students were 5th and 6th graders. May want to consider holding a parent event concurrently with Game Night. Maybe another "High-Ding in Plain Sight" or other presentation that can target the parents of these younger students.

Plans continue for the elementary school visits in January 2019 (during mid-term/Regents week). Looking at doing something related to vaping, based on the age groups.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST** – Ms. Hall reported that she received 331 responses to the surveys distributed after the Chris Herren presentation in September. Reactions were strong and highly positive, with all categories averaging 4+ out of 5 point range (with a 1 indicating strongly disagree and a 5 strongly agree).

Ms. Hall is currently investigating possible presentations for the high school. Possibilities include THRIVE (Transformation, Healing, Recovery, Inspiration, Validation, and Empowerment) and LICADD (Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence). They have been speaking with Mr. Mosca about the former. Suffolk County Alcoholics Anonymous did reach out to Ms. Hall and Mr. Modica regarding volunteer speakers they provide to speak to students about AA, their personal stories, sobriety, etc. Ms. Hall shared the information with Mr. Mosca and Mr. Sparacio, who has passed it on to the health teachers as a resource for their drug and alcohol curriculum. This is a free program.

Several events took place at the high school during Red Ribbon Week, including a program in conjunction with the PTSA to paint inspirational rocks with students

during lunch periods. There was also a mini health fair at the high school on Friday, October 26th with an IDEA presence. Mrs. Vouris was unable to attend, so Ms. Hall recruited students to man the table during their lunch periods and explain the coalition's mission to their peers. Other tables present included Golds Gym, Great South Bay YMCA, Long Island Rail Road Safety Department, Northwell Southside Hospital Vape-Free, Youth Enrichment Services (YES), and The Chris Klug Foundation. Mrs. Brown shared photos of all of the local storefronts with the IDEA Red Ribbon signs in their windows. Photos of all of these were shared on our Instagram (that now has 45 followers) and Twitter accounts. Brainstorming has begun for Red Ribbon Week next year.

Ms. Hall has also been meeting with students who have been placed in the Restorative Justice program as part of their transition back to the school day. She also continues to touch base with them throughout the year. Ms. Hall also works with at-risk students (brought up at IST or through teacher referral) and pairs them with a teacher-mentor. Check-ins occur throughout the year to discuss the progression of the relationship and resolve issues that may arise. She is coordinating the elementary visits by the Teacher Prep class with Mr. Modica, as well.

- **CULTURAL LIAISON** – Mrs. Dengeles met with Mrs. Zarate last week to discuss how they may provide ELL parents workshops and how we, as a coalition, can meet different cultures and families, discussing on how and who can do these presentations. She will have an update for us at our next meeting. It was noted that the workshops do not need to be on prevention, but should provide parents information on who to contact for basic support (e.g. homework help, health needs, academic support, etc.) in the schools. Once a following is established, can expand and push the prevention piece.

Mrs. Dengeles can also translate the tri-fold brochure into Spanish, to expand its reach. Mrs. Carr will be asked to email the file to her so she can get this started. While Google translate can work on any website, she will also translate any documents we want posted on the IDEA site. She will also translate the Game Night packets.

- **POST PROM** – The first Post Prom committee meeting was held on October 17th. Over 25 people attended, with a lot of new faces in the crowd. The theme for this year's event is "Glow in the Dark." The committee will look for different paints and black lights. Fundraising is being done for the 2019 senior shirts. The next big one is the Dang! BBQ fundraiser on December 4th. Post Prom will get 20% of proceeds for the entire day. Other fundraisers in the planning process include a paint party, bowling party, Five Guys, the Spring Street Fair, and Festival of the arts. All are welcome to attend the next committee meeting on Wednesday, November 14th in the Islip High School Faculty Room. *(PLEASE NOTE: As of November 8th, this meeting was cancelled, per Mr. Austin.)*

OLD BUSINESS:

- **DFC Grant Progress Report** - As discussed at our last meeting, Mrs. Carr emailed everyone a pdf of the August Report on October 4th.
- **KIC Clean Up Data** - We are asking them for feedback on what they are finding, to see if this can help us figure out what drugs/paraphernalia are being found. Mrs. Brown attended the last KIC meeting, and she learned that drug dealers are leaving “heroin kits” at public bus stops in Central Islip and Brentwood. There are needles and start up heroin in the kits to get people hooked. It is not in Islip yet. Dr. Semel and Mr. Flynn will investigate to get more information. This could be shared on the IDEA website.
- **Website** – We are thinking of creating a ‘contact us’ on the website that would link to a Gmail account. Mrs. Carr has been asked to look into this and will provide access to the email account to several people to administer.
- **Chris Herren Survey** – This was covered in Ms. Hall’s report; 331 students responded.
- **Teacher Training** (*7 Habits of Highly Effective People* through the Covey Foundation) – Dr. Semel received quotes on training for the staff in this program. One of our teachers could be trained to be a teacher trainer. It is very expensive for the whole week of training, plus travel and hotel costs (\$5,000+). We do not want this commitment to lose steam for this expense. Another option is for The Covey Foundation to come in and have them train a school at a time. CRES and SES have adopted many parts of the program, but the high school has not really jumped in yet. Dr. Semel is currently weighing her options and not committing to it yet. Mrs. Brown suggested we bring back Carin Winter to train teachers in Mindfulness. This is a lesson in the Too Good for Drugs curriculum.

ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences is the new training. We should be monitoring what kinds of experiences our students are exposed to (e.g. divorce, illness, alcohol abuse, death of a parent, students moving here from other countries, etc.). Students who have multiple ACEs are the students who are more likely to have alcohol and substance abuse issues. BOCES has training on this, and it is easy to access. Dr. Semel wants to get parents involved. At what level should we start?

- **YMCA Leadership Training** – This is held on Tuesdays, after the YMCA bus from the school. Can we approach the YMCA as a sector partner to see about waiving the fees for this program for students who cannot afford it? Mr. Modica will ask them about it.
- **Fun Run** – Dr. Semel spoke with many people, and the feedback indicates a belief that we are saturated in this area with runs. This will limit how effective a fun run would be as a fundraising tool. Plainedge just did a big event that caught her attention – they hosted a “dancing with the stars” night. They offered it to students, teachers, and combinations. They ended up making \$13,000! The event was outdoors, with a

company putting down a dance floor on their football field. Some people performed and others participated as judges. Food was served. It was a major event. Dr. Semel is interested in finding out more to see if this is something we could consider.

Mrs. Vouris noted that Huntington runs an “Idols” program, with WBAB helping out and running the whole thing. All they have to do is manage the auditions. IAMP has committed to having an “Islip’s Got Talent” event in the spring, and they have a company that handles almost everything assisting them.

It was suggested that the Fundraising sub-committee meet and report back to the full Coalition at our December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Red Ribbon Banner** – We are working on designing one that is generic so it may be used year after year. Also investigating permits that will allow us to hang it next year. We will look into putting it up in Town Hall.
- **Branded Handouts for Holiday Parade** – Prior to the start of the main coalition meeting, a sub-committee met to discuss the Holiday Parade. People will recruit students to march in the parade with IDEA and assist with handing out materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Tuesday, December 4th

Tuesday, January 15th

Tuesday, February 5th

Tuesday, March 5th

Tuesday, April 9th

Tuesday, May 14th