

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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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, 2019

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. She asked that we keep to the same format as last meeting and highlight one item in each report. Everyone was asked to review the minutes from last meeting to get started. The minutes were accepted as written.

7:03 p.m. Mrs. Carr shared the financial reports, including the filing of the first quarter FFR. Financials approved as presented

REPORTS:

COPE OFFICER:

The COPE Officer sent regrets that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Flynn has shared the meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

CO-PROJECT DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Vouris spoke about the IDEA resource table at last Friday's SEPTA Sweetheart Dance. She had several parents approach her with questions, with the primary area of concern being vaping. She recommended that we work to get more student volunteers from our Youth Sector to work the tables at student events, as she believes this will make the table more approachable to other students. She also suggested we consider creating a Resource Table Form, similar to the District's Building Use Form to organize the gathering the resources for set up and arranging volunteers in a more efficient way going forward.

Mr. Henning did reach out to her about having an IDEA table during the Wing Health & Safety event in the future. Since this is a K-1 building, we would need more resources for younger students if we wanted to do so. The Elks may have resources, but we need a contact. She did share that they have [coloring books to accompany their Drug Awareness Program that you can print from their website](#). A sample of the book was passed around.

REPORTS:

CO-PROJECT DIRECTORS (*con't*)

Mrs. Vouris also shared a packet of information on vaping from the FDA. She will also share some related links to Mr. Modica to include on the IDEA website.

Dr. Martin reported that he attended the Longwood Legislative Breakfast on Saturday. One of the presentations, from Dr. Julie Davis Lutz, included relevant statistics and facts regarding teen social and emotional health, both nationwide and in New York State. Several of these slides were shared with the group. Mrs. Carr will send a link to the full presentation to everyone.

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Mrs. Whitehouse focused on next week's 100 Minutes of Movement event for 5th and 6th graders, which will be on Wednesday, February 13th. Permission slips, which also ask parents to complete a 10-question parent survey, were sent home. Both a link and a QR code to the survey were provided. Parents will be asked to complete the survey at the event drop off, if they have not done so already. The survey has been structured to provide pie charts of the data gathered, which will be shared at our next meeting.

In looking at the permission slip, Mrs. Paehr recommended that for the future, a note be added that parents should have photo identification (e.g. driver's license) available when picking up their child. This will hopefully alleviate any problems should we need to confirm that an individual has permission to pick up a student.

Mrs. Whitehouse shared that for the event, the gym will be split in half with knockout and cage ball at one end, and the DJ at the other, possibly with other activities. She has arranged for 12 students from Athletes Helping Athletes to volunteer to help with the activities. Several members of the National Junior Honor Society who wanted to volunteer approached Dr. Martin. He gladly accepted their help, and they will likely help with the serving of the pizza.

They are charging \$5 per student to cover the costs of the pizza. At this point, the numbers are on the low side, with only 35 students registered. They will be doing a big push at both the middle and elementary schools this week, so they are hoping to get that number to at least 70. The students will probably be broken into groups, to facilitate the games and serving of food.

Mrs. Paehr asked if Mrs. Whitehouse and Dr. Martin would need any support or volunteers from IDEA for the event. Mrs. Vouris added a question about having an IDEA resource table. Mrs. Whitehouse said that yes, absolutely, she would love to have a resource table there, but they would definitely need volunteers to staff it. Mrs. Vouris will look into getting small, valentine-related items for at least two guessing jars to have at the table to draw students to it.

Islip Middle School will also have a speaker on March 15th. Mrs. Pennington has for Stephen Hill, Speak Sobriety to provide assemblies for all middle school students that day. He will cover topics such as vaping, wellness, drinking, anxiety, social media, and peer pressure.

YOUTH COORDINATOR:

IDEA Community member Joan Smith reached out to Mr. Modica regarding a teen group that meets at the American Legion on Tuesday evenings. The group consists of students not only from Islip, but from other area communities, as well. She has asked that he do a presentation on vaping for them. He will do so, but needs to nail down the specifics.

Mr. Modica continues keeping the IDEA website up-to-date. He added information - What Juuling Does to Your Body (It's Not Pretty) to the Drug and Alcohol Facts page; hyperlinked the IDEA Facebook page to the icon on the home page; added more fun and free (or low cost) events to the Event page; and shared photos from last month's elementary school visits to the Gallery.

Promotion for Game Night on March 22nd will begin after mid-winter break. The permission slip has been created and the building use form approved. Mr. Modica will meet with the principals at Sherwood and Commack Road to discuss distribution of the permission slips and promotion of the event at the elementary level. Requests for donations have been working, as they have already received free coupons from Panera Bread and McDonalds. PC Richards will also be donating two \$50 gift cards. Mrs. Solaski asked if we should be looking for other raffle prizes. Mr. Modica said yes, but Mrs. Whitehouse asked that some of that wait until after Purple & Gold.

Mr. Modica requested that we have a sub-committee meeting before the March 5th general meeting to fill the goodie bags for Game Night. These will include the coupons, literature, and the IDEA magnets. Mrs. Brown asked if we have pens or pencils for the bags, but these have not been ordered yet. Mr. Modica noted that parents will be asked to gather in the gym at pick up, where he will share information with them before handing out the bags and matching parents and students.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST:

Ms. Hall provided follow up information on the read aloud program at Sherwood and Commack Road schools. High School students read *What If Everybody Did That?* to students during their library time. A follow up activity asked students to draw a picture and write about another positive action that could be added to the book. Mrs. Dengeles coordinated the program at CRES, and Mr. Modica and Ms. Hall taught to classes themselves at SES.

Ms. Hall created a binder of the students' work, which she passed around for everyone to see. Some of them were quite creative and interesting. Ms. Hall has found the address of the author, so she will be making copies of the work and sending it to them.

She has also arranged presentations for all grades at the high school by Dr. Stephen Dewey on May 30th. His program, titled Effects of Drugs on Teen Brains, will focus largely on vaping and will include clinical findings – both acute and long-term consequences. Mrs. Dengeles noted that she has seen him speak a few times, and he is very engaging. The planning of this presentation is a result of the participant survey from the December vaping presentation. Many attendees noted that students needed to learn more facts about the dangers of vaping.

Ms. Ward, Assistant Principal at Islip High School, is putting together a student Wellness Fair in April. Mr. Modica and Ms. Hall, as well as IHS staff members Angelina Lange, Heidi Stevens, and Michael Mosca, are working under Ms. Ward's direction to put this together. The fair will be held during lunch periods on Friday, April 5th. IDEA will have a resource table at the event, with other tables hopefully including yoga, chiropractor, gym, health food, nutrition, acupuncture, dentist, massage, meditation, vaping, and counseling. Islip graduate Brandy Amodio, LCSW, will be at the counseling table.

As a final note, Ms. Hall reported that IHS senior Tyler Nakken approached her and Mr. Mosca about creating a PSA video on drunk driving. He wants to share this with all seniors prior to prom season. Tyler volunteers with a local ambulance corps, so he wants to include what happens at an accident scene when the first responders arrive. This project was completely self-motivated, and Ms. Hall is excited to see the outcome.

CULTURAL LIAISON:

Mrs. Dengeles has been working with the District's Coordinator for World Languages and ENL on a proposal to create a video/blog series to engage Islip's ENL population. The videos would be about 7-10 minutes long and could be posted on both the District and IDEA websites. The goal is to start by posting the first video in March, then do one or two a month going forward. The outline she provided in her report is starting point. Once a more formal outline and video scripts are finalized, they will be presented to the District for approval to move forward. The videos will be constructed to support not only the IDEA mission statement, but to also comply with and meet the requirements of the State Education Department's Social Emotional Framework, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework. As this project is still in development, Ms. Dengeles will share more once a more solid plan is in place and/or has been approved.

POST PROM:

The Post Prom Committee held their first build night last Wednesday. Despite the bitter cold, five people braved the elements and came to help. The group did a lot of experimenting with the neon paints and were pleased with the results.

At planning meeting, the group came up with a lot of ideas. Mr. Austin shared some photos of ideas they are looking to use, including a neon duct tape dance floor; neon inner tubes that you connect with fish wire and back light (these will hang on the wall); and neon Slinkys that can hang from the ceiling and lit with black lights.

They will also be purchasing fabric backgrounds from DressLily to use as wall coverings. These cost \$20 each.

Mrs. Whitehouse asked about the inner tubes, wondering where they will be purchased and how much they will cost. Mr. Austin figures they will need about 30, and they are thinking they will cost \$2-3 each. Mrs. Whitehouse thinks she may be able to find them for less.

Mr. Austin also noted that Mrs. Majestic, one of the elementary art teachers, will again work with her second or third graders to create an art piece for the 'gift wall.' This will be in keeping with the glow in the dark theme. Last year, he asked her for a specific creation, but what she came up with was so much better, so he is letting her take the lead on this project.

The next build night will be on Wednesday, February 6th, with the focus on painting.

OLD BUSINESS:

100 Minutes of Activity:

Discussed under reports.

Ms. Hall has received an invoice from Paul and Jessie Hassler, the DJs for the event. IDEA approves the expenditure of \$250 from the IDEA ECAF account to pay for this.

Continuation Application:

Dr. Martin reported that the Continuation Application for the DFC Grant, year 9 was filed yesterday afternoon through the eRA system. Mrs. Carr scrolled through the full packet of information, a total of 50 pages, on the Promethean Board. Mrs. Vouris highlighted the action plan that was included in the Project Narrative piece. This plan reflected the results of the Bach Harrison in the fall of 2017. Administration of that survey in the 2019-20 school year was included in the budget.

Coalition Involvement Agreements (CIAs):

We still need signatures from four sectors: Government, Local/State Government; Healthcare Professionals. We will ask Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi, who has been a very active member of the Coalition, to sign the Local/State Government form at our next meeting. Mrs. Vouris suggested we reach out to Northwell Health to find someone for the Healthcare sector. Ms. Pfeiffer noted that the Healthcare Professional does not need to be a physician; you can use a social worker or a nurse, but they should specialize in the field of substance abuse. Ms. Halls recommends we ask Brandy Amodio, an Islip graduate who has attended our meetings and is a LCSW. Ms. Amodio has a private practice specializing in supportive therapy for individuals and families impacted by a loved one's substance abuse.

7 Habits Teacher Training:

Dr. Semel reported that the contract for Covey Institute to provide training to all Islip teachers during the Superintendent's Conference Day on March 18th has been drafted.

It is with now with them, and we are waiting for them to sign and return it to us. We should be all good to go. Once the contract is signed, we will order the materials for the training. She is very excited for the training session, and thinks it will have a great impact on the District.

Fundraising Committee:

Mrs. Vouris shared that there was nothing new to report. Mrs. Paehr requested that this sub-committee have a meeting before our next full Coalition meeting. This could be part of the sub-committee meeting session at 6:30 p.m. on March 5th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter Writing Initiative:

Dr. Semel brought up an IDEA initiative from years ago. This initiative paired elementary students with a high school senior. The elementary students would write letters to the seniors about the dangers of drunk driving, imploring them to stay safe on prom night, and providing advice to attend Post Prom and other ways to stay safe. A lot of time and effort went into matching the students, as they wanted to take advantage of established relationships (neighbors, babysitters, etc.). The biggest problem, however, was trying to match up the numbers to ensure that every senior received a letter. Both Dr. Semel and Mrs. Vouris reported cases where teachers were frantically trying to write letters for any senior who was missing a match.

Dr. Semel loved this project and was very involved in it at the time. She believes it held the District make connections. Much like the recently started “Wing Walk” after graduation rehearsal, it allows our younger students an opportunity to see the progression of where all of this is leading. She asked the group if this is something we want to bring back. Ms. Hall likes the idea a lot and thinks it will be great and have an impact on the seniors. Ms. Pfeiffer pointed out that the greater impact may actually be with the younger students who are writing the letter. This is one more, very real way to get the message to them and also gives them ownership of positive behaviors for the future. If you are asking someone to do something, you are much more likely to do it yourself. This will make them think about being like that in the future, and commit to a healthy lifestyle. She believes they will definitely remember the activity.

The consensus of the group is to bring back this initiative.

New York State Survey:

Dr. Semel was approached by the state to participate in the New York State Youth Development Survey for our 7-12 graders. This survey, which was projected onto the Promethean, is similar in scope to the Bach Harrison. It is not mandatory for the District to participate, but she has been asked to commit, with the qualifier that she may back out at a later date if she does.

Dr. Semel believes we can get a tremendous amount of data for IDEA to use from this survey. It is broader in scope than our bi-annual Bach Harrison administration (which is only given to grades 6, 8, and 10), so it may fill in some gaps for us.

Mrs. Dengeles stated that she was the coordinator for this survey in her old district. While the survey looks lengthy, most students did not report any difficulty in completing it in a single class period. Some students did require additional time, which was provided, and struggling readers could have the survey read to them. The data they received back, however, was tremendous, and very easy to read, use, and share. She noted that parental permission is required for the administration of the survey, they used a passive consent model, notifying parents that the survey would be administered during their child's English class on a specific date, and if they did NOT want their child to participate, they could return a waiver form.

Ms. Pfeiffer recommends that we participate in the survey, as it is well done and may be valuable for future funding purposes. Mr. Sparacio asked who, besides the district, has access to the data collected. It was noted that only the district receives the data specific to us. Any publicly published or shared results would be aggregates of data from all participants county or statewide. Aside from informing needs for the district and state intervention, though, Mr. Sparacio wants to know if the data is used in other ways, such as shared with private companies. Ms. Pfeiffer responded that it is primarily used by the state to get their federal money. She added that the problem is out there, and Long Island is ground zero.

Ms. Siry shared that Long Island Prevention Resource Center (liprc.org) has posted the results for both [Suffolk](#) and [Nassau](#) Counties from the last survey on their site. She added that not many schools/coalitions have the opportunity to take part in this survey, but wish that they could. Participating will not only help us, but can also help other communities that do not have the opportunity. Other coalitions can use the county-wide aggregate data to apply for grants, like our DFC grant. Ms. Pfeiffer pointed out that the survey may also reveal other issues in the community that are currently unknown to us.

Dr. Semel thanked everyone for his or her input, saying it was most helpful. Based on this information, she is going to go ahead with participating in the survey.

Dr. Martin noted that this is not the only survey currently being promoted by the state. Commissioner Elia has embraced the federal Educational School Climate Surveys. This survey of parents, students, teachers, and non-educators targets engagement, safety, and environments with a number of sub-topics under each. Commissioner Elia is trying to get more schools to buy into it. The survey is being piloted in Nassau County, and it looks like Suffolk County will be getting on board. Of the many surveys out there, we have to ask, which one is best.

Mrs. Vouris noted that for our grant purposes, our approved measure is the Bach Harrison survey with the longitudinal data it provides. Additional data never hurts, but a school climate survey will not give us the kind of core measures data we need for the DFC grant.

Dr. Martin noted that survey fatigue is a real consideration. Mrs. Paehr pointed out that many times when people take multiple surveys, but do not see any changes coming out of them, they will ask, "Why are we bothering?"

Ms. Pfeiffer wanted to know if the Educational School Climate Survey was tied into the new mental health mandates.

The final consensus was that we should participate in the survey.

Legalization of Recreational Marijuana:

Mrs. Paehr asked that this item be added to the agenda. In her other role with the Suffolk Region PTA, she has been involved in writing letters to the Town of Islip and Suffolk County stating that these local governments should not take part in the expected legalization of recreational marijuana in New York State. She asked if IDEA wanted write letters of a similar nature. Should we do one letter on behalf of the IDEA Coalition? Ms. Siry cautioned about the appearance of lobbying, which is not allowed under the grant. Both Mrs. Vouris and Ms. Pfeiffer said it was not lobbying, but advocating.

Ms. Pfeiffer also noted that the Town and/or County cannot outlaw something that is legal at the state level, but they can control access, such as age requirements and where dispensaries can be located. Mrs. Paehr added that Colorado has seen a 15% increase in auto accidents since they legalized marijuana, so this is a real concern.

Ms. Pfeiffer recommends that we advocate for what we believe. She added that she thinks a lot of Long Island's Town Supervisors do not want this.

Mrs. Carr suggested that rather than sending a single letter on IDEA letterhead, a draft of a possible letter can be shared with Coalition members to send as private citizens. Ms. Siry noted that this will also increase the numbers of letters received by the elected officials, which may have more of an impact than a single letter.

Mr. Austin noted that no matter what happens in regards to limiting access, e.g. hiding where it can be purchased, when the almighty dollar comes into play and tax revenue from sales hits a plateau, chances are regulations will become relaxed so more tax revenue can be generated.

For our perspective, Mr. Modica said he will do some research and reach out to a school administrator in Colorado to see how the legalization of marijuana in that state affected schools. He will share what he finds out at our next meeting.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Mrs. Vouris shared that a neighbor told her that Shamrock has lost their license to sell cigarettes. This is a positive step for us.

Ms. Siry asked if we knew about SAMHSA's Stop Act Grant, which is available to current and past DFC grantees. The grant provides up to \$50,000 for two years for underage drinking interventions. The deadline to apply is in March. She will send Mrs. Paehr the information.

Ms. Hall will invite Brandy Amodio to our next meeting and also see if she is willing to sign the Healthcare sector CIA.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5th. Mrs. Paehr reminded everyone about the sub-committee meetings at 6:30 p.m.

8:23 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Tuesday, March 5th

Tuesday, April 9th

Tuesday, May 14th