

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

Islip Public Schools

Board of Education
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Islip Association of School Administrators
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Islip High School Students Wing School PTA
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Islip High School PTSA
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Great South Bay YMCA

Islip Chamber of Commerce

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Islip North Community Watch

KIC-Keep Islip Clean

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 – 10th Leg District

SCPD Third Precinct COPE Unit

Syntax Communication

Trinity Lutheran Church

The Islip Elks Lodge #2533

Youth Enrichment Services

MINUTES - May 14, 2019

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

ATTENDEES: See sign-in sheet (copy attached)

7:06 p.m. Mrs. Paehr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She thanked everyone for their work this year. She purchased a small thank you gift for everyone – an IDEA branded pen. She invited anyone who had not yet received one to see her before leaving this evening.

Mrs. Paehr invited everyone to look at their packets to review the minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting. Mrs. Carr noted that there was a minor change to them after they were emailed last week. The minutes were approved as now written.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Carr shared the most recent expenditures of grant funds. She noted that we currently have \$5,182.69 left of this year's grant money that has not yet been spent or encumbered. Dr. Semel would like to utilize these funds to purchase support materials for teachers as part of the 7 Habits "Leader in Me" initiative. She presented a sample of the materials and everything included in the kit. The materials provide a guide for educators to implant the 7 Habits in their classroom and daily life. The plan is to buy some now and distribute them to key personnel first, then gradually get them out to all.

Mrs. Vouris expressed the thought that this is a great idea and noted that the 7 Habits is specifically mentioned in CADCA material, and this strategy is fully supported in a lot of the grant documentation. Ms. Pfeiffer added that is an important part of social-emotional learning.

Mrs. Paehr inquired about the date funding for the next grant cycle begins (end of September) and asked the group if we will need any money prior to this date as start-up funds for the beginning of the school year. Mr. Austin and Mrs. Brown mentioned that we still need to purchase a large banner to hang across Main Street for Red Ribbon Week. They would like to use some of the remaining funds to purchase this. They will investigate cost, and that money will be set aside. The Coalition agreed to use any remaining money for the 7 Habits materials.

REPORTS:

- **CO-PROJECT DIRECTORS** – Dr. Martin has been working with Liz Mayott on Fundraising. They are hoping to work with Northwell, but two meetings have been scheduled and cancelled so far. They will continue to try to get a meeting and get the ball rolling on fundraising.
- **CO-PROJECT COORDINATORS** – Mrs. Whitehouse met with Dr. Martin to review everything for the Dodgeball Tournament on Thursday. About 30 students have registered so far, and they are hopeful that the number will increase by the event. High school students will be helping out with the event, but if anyone is around and would like to stop in on Thursday evening, they are welcome to do so.
- **YOUTH COORDINATOR** – The vape presentation scheduled for May 15th will be rescheduled due to low enrollment. This was originally planned for earlier in the year, and registration was good, but the event had to be postponed due to a family emergency. With only a five students registered to attend the new date, Mr. Modica and Mrs. Smith have decided to try a different date to see if they can get more people. Mr. Modica will make himself available for June, July, or August to see if they can get a larger audience. Matt Marano noted that the summer may be a tough sell, as many people are on vacation or involved in sports or other activities. He recommended that this be part of Red Ribbon Week, instead. Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, from LIPRC requested that when a new date is selected, that a copy of the flyer be sent to LIPRC, as they will advertise the event on their website for us.

Mrs. Whitehouse suggested that the same presentation be used as a pre-practice program for 7th & 8th grade sports. Mr. Sparacio noted that he has been talking with Dr. Martin about adding a MS Sports Code Night to start introducing Section XI rules and regulations to parents earlier. Maybe this presentation could be incorporated into that, as well. Mrs. Paehr asked that we think about a population we may be missing, as sixth graders have reported smoking/vaping issues.

Mr. Modica said they will plan a program for the summer and see how many kids register. We can add or reschedule the presentations as needed. Mr. Henning stressed the importance of pushing this down into the lower grades, as well. For example, we should consider piggy-backing something with the annual Health Fair at Wing. Mrs. Paehr said this was good, as long as things were kept age-appropriate.

Ms. Pfeiffer noted that we should consider adding a vaping component to a 'fun' activity kids want to participate in, not just in isolation with programs like Too Good for Drugs. Mrs. Vouris suggested that partnering with the elementary PTAs at their Family Fun Nights might be a good opportunity to do this.

Mr. Modica noted that we need to do a better job of communicating with kids who IDEA is and why we are doing things like Game Night or 100 Minutes of Movement. They need to know that these events are not just a fun night out for them.

Dr. Martin added that we should continue the work we started this year with getting the community service clubs at the MS and HS to get them involved with our events and activities. This gives the organization a community service piece and hours they need, while also helping IDEA from a sustainability perspective.

Mr. Henning suggested we also have a presence at the annual Wing Book Swap. The public library and other organizations are there, so we should consider sharing information at this event.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST** –Ms. Hall spoke about the final assembly for the school year at the high school, which will focus on the effects of substances on the teenage brain. Dr. Stephen Dewey will speak to all students in two 45-50 minute assemblies on Thursday, May 30th. She has started promoting this by getting information out to teachers about the presentation.
- **CULTURAL LIAISON** – Mrs. Dengeles was unable to attend the meeting and did not submit a report.
- **POST PROM** – Mr. Austin made a request that was not included in his report. The Post Prom Committee is in need of three old window shades, preferably in white, for two games that will be part of the event. They will be playing Let's Make a Deal and The Price is Right and need the shades to act as "curtains" for the prizes. He added that any size shades are welcome, as he can adjust different sizes to make them work for what they need. He would rather not spend money on new shades if he can recycle someone's old items. Mrs. Paehr asked if approached the manager at Home Depot to see if they could donate the shades, but Mr. Austin is reluctant to do so, since they have helped with so many other things already.

Mr. Austin also asked for volunteers to help **after** Post Prom ends. The HS lobby needs to be cleaned out completely that morning. More hands are needed to help with this break down. All help is welcome and greatly appreciated, so if you or someone you know would like to volunteer, be at Islip High School at 3:00 a.m. on June 26th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Dodgeball Tournament** – Discussed during reports
- **Fundraising Committee Report** – Discussed during reports
- **Legislative Update** – Discussion was tabled, as Legislator Cilmi was unable to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Planning for IDEA's Future** – Mrs. Paehr asked Dr. Martin to prepare something to start the conversation on planning for next year.

Dr. Martin created a PowerPoint to get the discussion started by asking some key questions. A handout was shared with some of the slides included in the presentation, and notes to begin. Mrs. Vouris noted that the meeting packet also included a slide from DFC reporting and SAMHSA, noting the Seven Strategies for Community Change and the Coalition's 12-month action plan for 2019-2020 that was submitted as part of the Continuation Application for the grant. These resources should also be considered as we plan.

- **PowerPoint Presentation** – The beginning slide asked, "Where are we now?" and focused on some key questions:
 - Are the meetings working?
 - What can we do better?
 - What areas need to be tweaked?
 - Plans for next year?
 - Sustainability beyond the grant?

Regarding sustainability, we need to ask how we can tap into the resources that we might have right here in Islip, be it through the school, the community, or local businesses.

The issue of the current format was raised – is this working for us? Remember, we don't want to change things for change's sake, but to make things better. At this point, these questions are all food for thought.

- Are Tuesdays the best night to meet?
- Does a 7:00 p.m. start time work?
- Is the Community Room still the best place to meet? Are other options a better idea – the public library? Another public location? Another location in the district? How can we get access to non-district facilities?
- What about our agenda? Should we consider re-formatting the meetings?

Dr. Martin opened the floor for any thoughts on any of these yet.

Mr. Marano noted that we need to think about the acquisition of new members. He believes that the next meeting should focus on selling IDEA to new members. Recruitment is a key to sustainability.

Mr. Modica also thinks we need to share what we are doing with neighboring districts, so they can start their own coalitions or grow those they already have. Mrs. Paehr

noted that there might be value in sharing what we do with them, while having them share what they do in return. It may provide new or fresh perspectives.

Mrs. Vouris added that 12 sectors are identified by SAMHSA for the DFC grant. We should work to recruit more individuals from each of these sectors. Mrs. Brown noted that she has personally approached individuals in the various sectors numerous times, but to date, has not received much of a response. Ms. Pfeiffer noted that with our grant, we really need to have more business representation involved in the Coalition. Legislator Cilmi and IDEA have had a lot to do with getting laws passed in Suffolk County. We need to bring businesses to the table and get them to buy into what we are doing.

Mr. Claren asked if we had a connection with the Chamber of Commerce who can invite business members to these meetings. Mrs. Paehr noted that the IDEA can join the Chamber, possibly for as little as \$30 per year. Dr. Semel is on board with doing this. It was noted that even if we do not get businesses to join, we can meet with business owners through connections we make through the Chamber. For example, IDEA representatives could meet with restaurant owners through Chamber connections. Mr. West from OSICA suggested we look into making a presentation at a Chamber meeting. We have to let businesses know who we are and what we are doing if we want them to get on board with the organization.

Ms. Dolan-Reilly added that when it comes to getting businesses invested in IDEA, the most important thing is to address environmental strategies. You want those businesses that are selling products (e.g. alcohol, vapes, etc.) on board and implementing the law as they should. LIPRC can provide Not On Your Life (NOYL) training on how to do this. Having representatives from the Youth Sector speak with business owners is helpful.

The main question is – how do we go out to the community and recruit people and get them to find the value in IDEA? Community awareness is key. As an example, participation in the Holiday Parade; we are not selling anything, but we are getting out in the community and sharing our mission. When we have a table or presence at events like this, it is important to have students participate. People, especially students seem to be more willing to approach and ask questions of younger people.

Regarding the meeting agenda, Mrs. Paehr would like to see us bring speakers and programs to the meetings. There is definite value in doing this, as well as training for members. Mrs. Vouris noted that we could have CADCA provide training programs for us, but they do charge for this. Ms. Dolan-Reilly noted that Long Island Prevention Resource Center can provide free training for us.

Dr. Martin asked if anyone other than IDEA staff (project directors, coordinators, etc.) be reporting at every meeting. It was noted that the new practice of each of these individuals picking one topic included in their reports to discuss has been helpful, especially as the entire written report is included with the meeting packet, so attendees can read these at their leisure.

As far as location is concerned, Mrs. Vouris recommends the Islip Public Library or Islip Fire Department as possible suitable locations for future meetings. Dr. Semel is all for going out and meeting around the community, but feels we also need to have a permanent 'home,' as this provides sustained attendance month-to-month. Ms. Dolan-Reilly suggested that alternating the venue quarterly, wherein every fourth meeting is held at a different time and/or location, with these 'travel' meetings held in the same month each year.

Dr. Semel would also like to look at possibly starting meetings a bit earlier, as IDEA is currently in competition with every other district event that starts at 7:00 p.m. There was some disagreement regarding the best start time. It was noted that day meetings may bring different players to the meetings, such as PTAs and businesses.

Dr. Martin then shared a list highlighting some of the accomplishments and events IDEA has done over the past year. He asked that attendees review the list and for each one identify:

- Venue (e.g. community awareness; presentation; activity; curriculum)
- Target Audience (specific grade K-12; elementary school; middle school; high school; district; staff; parents; community)
- Time of year
- Cost (in real dollars or man power)
- Continuation – do we want to keep on doing/supporting this?

Mrs. Vouris noted that the list also ties into the seven strategies for community level change included on page 3 of her report.

At this point, the group broke into groups of two or three to review the list and identify each point.

After regrouping, a brief discussion occurred, reviewing many of the points already noted above. Dr. Martin reminded everyone that we were not going to resolve every issue today, and that the point of this meeting was to get the conversation started.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

As a reminder, the District Budget Vote is on Tuesday, May 21st. Polls are open at 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Austin noted that Post Prom will have a table at the Festival of the Arts at the HS that evening.

9:06 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.