

District Council Minutes

January 30, 2014. 3:30-5:30 at Hagan

Next Meeting: **March 26**, 2014. 3:30 at Hagan.

Attendees: Julia Caldwell (student rep), Sharon Ciccone (elementary teacher rep), John Farrell (elementary school rep), Jennifer Kaufman (HS parent rep), Steve Malkischer (secondary school principal rep), Ellen Marble (community rep), Catherine Porco (Nassau rep), Lois Powell (superintendent), Erin Ruppert (Hagan parent rep), Vickie Setzer (Todd rep), and Mark VanHorne (secondary school teacher rep)

Volunteer Opportunities:

- If you think, believe, surmise, deem or reckon the wording, phraseology, language, or terminology of the text in the District's Strategic Plan needs, necessitates, demands, or entails, refinement, revision, polishing, or fine-tuning, contact, alert, notify, inform or apprise Lois Powell.
- Ready for a cognitive expedition into a database to discover a list of schools that are most like us for comparison purposes? If interested in this cerebral journey, contact Lois Powell.

Biennial Review for State:

- The assessments from each Site-Based Team building were combined to create a District version to be submitted to the NYSED. Lois and Jennifer took each building score and essentially averaged the numbers to the nearest whole number, erring on the low side recognizing the value of having something to improve upon as opposed to thinking we are better than we are. The results for questions that correlated to the NYSED form were extracted. The administrators, teachers and PTA president will need to sign-off on this document before it is submitted to NYSED for posterity.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, contact Lois Powell.

Action Item: Sign-off and submit NYSED Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making.

Responsible: Lois Powell to obtain sign-off by appropriate parties: principals, teachers, PTA president, and then submit as required by NYSED form.

- Strategic Plan:

We were introduced to Dick Eppig who has 20 years experience with Baldrige; a management model to improve performance. Eppig gave an overview of the framework and explained that the model is easy to tailor to differing organizations; that the only thing that really changes is the vocabulary.

This process involves refining the Strategic Plan so we know where we're going and have a vision. Our goal at the meeting was to make our Strategic Plan more of a shared decision making process. Eppig explained the vision is more idealistic; the mission is more tangible, and he discussed measurable language.

Discussion ensued about proposed changes to the mission but it was felt that no one disagreed with the base philosophy of what we wanted stated. Hence it was decided to form a group to do some wordsmithing. Key phrases that triggered reaction, especially to our mission: empower, nurture, foundation, global mindset / contributing to a global society /

globally minded people, competitive (evokes different emotions in different people), succeed (evokes different ideas in different people), building character, 5 pillars (concern: lost a good share of the stakeholders), ever changing vs. competitive, well-rounded, and direction (not feeling limited by choices).

Discussion about core values, strategic advances, strategic challenges, pillars, and 5-year district goals were discussed. Many edits had already occurred in the meeting prior to District Council that were then reviewed by District Council.

Lois explained that our comparison schools might have changed. We need to evaluate the number eligible for reduced lunch, etc. and verify if our comparison schools really are.

Measurements: we discussed the use of a Drug Use survey. Once the information is in our scorecard, it becomes part of public information. If we survey this information, we owe it to the community to share the information but then what are the implications and the impact on the school community. This information will be left out for now and further discussed.

Action Item: Wordsmithing.

Action Item: Site visits to comparison schools.

Action Item: Develop more measurements.

Action Item: Add text to Strategic Plan as per administration meeting and District Council meetings with Dick Eppig. Disseminate these results to the District Council.

Responsible: Lois Powell

Dick Eppig will be back on February 10, 2014 to work with the Board of Education.

- Next Meeting Date/Agenda

Next Meeting: March 26th at 3:30 at Hagan.

Action: If you have any items to add to this agenda, contact Lois Powell.

Responsible: You.