

District Council Minutes

September 24, 2013. 3:30 at Hagan

Next Meeting: **November 12**, 2013. 3:30 at Hagan.

If anyone has anything to add to the agenda for November, send ideas to Lois.

Attendees: Sharon Ciccone (elementary teacher rep), John Farrell (elementary principal rep), Jennifer Kaufman (HS parent rep), Steve Malkischer (secondary school principal rep), Ellen Marble (community rep), Jeannie Nemes (staff rep), Lois Powell (superintendent), Cathy Porco (Nassau parent rep), Vickie Setzer (Todd parent rep), and Mark VanHorne (secondary school teacher rep)

- We introduced ourselves, noted meetings would be at least quarterly, and explained that the council emerged from the revised Shared Decision Making Plan.
- A Hagan Parent Representative search is still in progress.
- Parent Survey:

It was recognized that a paper satisfaction survey was mailed last year but it wasn't well received, the quality of the questions were ... well, questionable, and we received less than 100 responses from the community.

Lois presented information about the Parent Engagement & Satisfaction Survey offered by the *National Center for School Leadership*. We discussed the pros and cons of what the survey offered and the need to find a survey we can use consistently over time so that the data has value to us.

The data the survey provides, including the comparison to other schools in the country is necessary as part of the Baldrige framework for improvement and for the Baldrige application. Pros and cons about Baldrige were mentioned. The Board of Ed has committed to Baldrige.

It was suggested a letter be sent to community members explaining what we're trying to do with the survey in hopes to encourage people to respond, and that we might get more responses if the survey or information about the survey was sent home from teachers as opposed to principals or administrators. Scott Schnackenberg might be a good resource to help develop the additional 10 questions if he's willing.

This survey will be administered in January 2014 (as will the Student Engagement survey for grades 6-12 and the Workforce Engagement survey).

Action Item: Order the survey.

Responsible: Lois Powell

- Fair Funding for Our Schools. Wednesday, October 2. 7:00 p.m.
Twin Towers Middle School, 112 Grand Avenue, Middletown NY
Speakers: Dr. David Little (NYSSBA) and Dr. Rick Timbs (Statewide School Finance Consortium)

This is opened to anyone in the district. Lois Powell can obtain 12-15 seats.

Action Item: Let Lois Powell know if you or anyone else you know in the district want to and can attend and she'll hook you up with seats in the V.I.P. section.

- NYS Star Program:

Non-Senior Citizen Residents are now required to apply annually to receive the Star rebate.

- Site-Based Team (SBT) Self-Assessment:

Lois presented the Self-Assessment that needs to be submitted to State Ed from the Site-Based Teams. We discussed the usefulness (or lack thereof) of the statement of success form and how some members who have served on various SBTs never saw the form or had opportunity to provide input. Jennifer presented an assessment used by another school district. We decided to give this form to every member serving on a SBT, and then use the results to effectively impact our SBTs. Although a different format is required, the results would also be used to fill-out the form required by State Ed.

Action Item: Get the Dynamic Teams Assessment to Lois.

Responsible: Jennifer Kaufman

- State Required Dashboard:

Lois handed out information “About the Engage NY Portal (ENYP).”

There are 3 vendors – identified by NYS – we can use. Lois presented reasons to eliminate Pearson (dealt with them before and everything had extra cost; plus outcry in public that they own State Ed, tests and textbooks). Concern with DataCation (they would not send people to talk to us and City of Poughkeepsie School District is planning to discontinued service with them). This leaves eScholar’s myTrack, which did send people here.

John Farrell explained the potential the dashboard had to save time and be useful.

Lois Powell explained though no costs for 2 yrs it takes time and thus there’s labor costs.

Original deadline: September 27.

August 22 they rolled out information to our area – only 3 district members from Spackenkill were allowed to attend, but this type of scenario explains why parents sometimes feel decisions are made without their involvement.

New deadline: October 31

Presentation at BOE meeting in November.

Action Item: Contacting districts that have used both DataCation and eScholar’s.

Responsible: Lois Powell

- District Council Chair

These meetings do not have to be facilitated by the superintendent. If anyone is interested, please let Lois know.

- Agenda Items

We discussed the District Strategic Plan. The Baldrige consultant has some suggestions so we decided it would be valuable to have the District Council meet with the consultant.

Action Item: Arrange District Council meeting with Baldrige consultant (topic: strategic plan)

Responsible: Lois Powell