

West Hempstead School District

Strategic Planning Council

Meeting Summary

April 30, 2008

In attendance: L. Abruzzo, R. Bernato, J. Bonasia, T. Brita, M. Calick, J. Caufield, A. Cavaliere, J. Eisen, W. Ejnes, R. Ferigno, V. Fleck, L. Gagliano, D. Gould, B. Hafner, W. Heckler, J. Hogan, J. Hume, K. Kurs, J. Kurs, E. Loewy, P. Lotito, A. O'Keefe, A. Peluso, M. Schultz, M. Schumacher, S. Schwartz, C. Senia, L. Stone, P. Uhl, R. Yanni

The following materials were distributed to council members upon arrival:

- Agenda for 4/30/08
- Model Template for Action Plan
- Meeting Summary of 4/9/08
- *Data Warehouse Newsletter* 4/17/08 "Value Added Reporting"
- *Data Warehouse Newsletter* 4/14/08 "Improving Student Achievement Through Student Strengths"
- "On the Road to DDDM (Data-Driven Decision-Making)" from *The Journal – Transforming Education Through Technology*, April 2008
- "Nomads at Last" from *The Economist*, 4/10/08

Upon arrival council members immediately met in subgroups. Dr. Bernato welcomed all members.

Subgroups immediately started their work. The subgroups worked throughout the evening. Laptops and flash drives were provided with templates for a SWOT analysis and the action plan draft. Dr. Bernato and Mr. Hogan rotated throughout the groups. Ann worked with the Curriculum and Assessment subgroup.

At 8:45 PM Dr. Bernato asked the subgroups to share the evening's work.

- **Curriculum and Data Assessment (including Special Education):** Strategies were expanded to include: develop needs assessment, conduct a curriculum audit, create a curriculum council, conduct a systematic curriculum review, document current curriculum, re-evaluate the directors' roles, develop vehicles for interdisciplinary unit development, encourage communication among departments and grade levels, analyze the advantages and disadvantages of tracking, communicate and celebrate student success, exchange and access instructional strategies, and write grants to increase funding. The subgroup also discussed criteria for measuring success of the goals: NYS assessments 3-12, AP tests, regents, SAT, increase proficiency and mastery on all assessments, decrease in referrals/detention/cutting class/suspensions, improve attendance, monitor % of students completing a four year

college degree, follow graduates, increase extra curricular participation, and increase parental involvement.

- **Educational Technology:** This subgroup added two goals to the action plan: stick to the five year plan and create the position, *Technology Director* (liaison with faculty, curriculum and technology). Vince Fleck, the district Director of Technology, met with the group and identified several issues to be addressed: band width, environmental conditions, and switches. He suggested that the PCs be replaced every five years and discussed the feasibility of integrating wireless technology into the district.
- **Professional Development:** The subgroup refined word completed at the previous meeting. One overriding goal was established—to align the professional development with student needs. Strategies identified included: turn key training, make PD valuable to all staff, provide a menu of choices to fulfill contractual obligations and staff training, make available common planning time throughout the district, increase and vary the number of course options per year, distribute a survey to the staff, and upgrade evaluation forms.
- **Community Involvement (including student involvement):** This subgroup refined the action plan to include one overriding goal—to create unity and pride through communications. Strategies included: conduct a survey, display and publish students' artwork, poetry, writings and achievements, highlight and advertise events, utilize students, connect district and community websites, improve school open houses, back-to-school nights and sell WH/Ram Pride wear.

At the close of the meeting, subgroups shared their progress in expanding the action plans. An overview of the handouts was presented by Ann. Dr. Bernato thanked council members for working tirelessly throughout the evening. The meeting adjourned promptly at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the middle school cafeteria. Please remember to bring your nametag and binder.