

# Task Force on Student Academic Performance

Hudson City School District – Board of Education

Meeting 11 Minutes

December 11, 2009

Wunderbar & Bistro

1. Open: 5:30PM. Elizabeth Fout, Nicky Genito, Robert Conte, Maria Suttmeier, Bill Ebel, Martha Lane, Peter Meyer

2. Old Business

--Elmsford Report. Bob says the team – which included NEED NAMES OF EVERYONE – had a very productive day. The Elmsford Superintendent had a complete agenda for the day and was very hospitable. She's from Buffalo, where she was a high school principal, and has been in Elmsford for two years. The district is very much like ours, only all of its schools are on one campus: PK—1, 2—6, 7—12. Forty-five percent are black, 44 percent Hispanic, and 10 percent are white. Sixty-seven percent of the students are free-and-reduced lunch.

-The district has many of the same programs as we do, but it is “thriving.” We are on the right track, but farther behind them.

-One of the major differences is their Professional Learning Communities program. It is a major part of what they do. The whole school – the teachers – is engaged. All the teachers get together in their PLC group in Period 9 every other day. These are groups of 12 to 14 and they talk about the kids and how they are doing. Each student has an “advisement” teacher who is not his/her regular/homeroom teacher. Each teacher has a “caseload” of 15 students.

--Topic reports

--Other. Nicky has volunteered to coordinate. What should it entail? According to the latest Action Plan, subjects include: Online classes, Budget “crisis,” Dropping enrollment, Charter schools / ALP, “Houses” within buildings, Baldwin Report.

--Invitation to Department Heads and to Professional Learning Communities

--Planning for TFSAP Report

4. New Business:

5. TOPIC: District wide Communication

- The Survey
- Good news vs. Bad news
- If it is only about “perception” why do people leave the district schools?
- Internal Communication
- External Communication

6. Adjourn.