

New Paltz High School Remaining True to Our Mission as We Respond to Complex Issues

High School Mission Statement:

"To become a community of learners that emphasizes mutual respect and responsibility in which everyone realizes his or her potential."

Caring, Connecting, and Making a Difference

Presented by,

Michelle Martoni, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs

Mrs. Barbara Clinton, Principal New Paltz High School

Deborah Hogencamp, Principal Duzine Elementary

Spring 2015

Incident of racial epithets

Not in line with our mission and vision

Proactive steps taken

Proactively Responding to the Issue

**The United States Department of Justice Community
Relations Service**

“SPIRIT” Program

Student Problem Identification and
Resolution of Issues Together

Provides ongoing insight into student
perceptions about social problems
impacting the schools

Goal of “SPIRIT”

To provide students the opportunity for constructive dialogue with school administrators, teachers and other community stakeholders about internal and external issues impacting the school and/or community environment, and having all parties work collaboratively to address those problems.

Research from the Department of Justice: Benefits of “SPIRIT”

Improved student/school staff/parent communication

Reduced number of student conflicts on campus

Reduced number of suspensions

Improved school attendance

Build collaborative problem solving skills among students

Increased school and community interaction

Stronger relationships between students and school/community stakeholders

Methodology defined by the Department of Justice

Participants: No Educational Staff

-Students participation—representative sampling

-Facilitators—from the community and the Department of Justice

Methodology Defined by the Department of Justice Continued

- Homogeneous Groups—Identify problems
- Dot voting
- Heterogeneous Grouping—Identify solutions

Next Steps

Create a SPIRIT Council

Follow up throughout the year(s)

The Department of Justice Community Relations
Service Plays a Major Role

District-Wide Diversity Efforts

ALIGNED WITH THE DISTRICT'S CORE INTELLIGENCE

OUR MISSION: THE NPCSD EXISTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY.

OUR VISION: CITIZENS OF THE WORLD...WHO VALUE ALL PEOPLES AND CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER...

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: LEARNING AND SUCCESS FOR ALL...A COHESIVE AND INCLUSIVE CULTURE

DISTRICT WIDE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Forum for dialogue among representatives from the building Diversity Cadres and administrators, parents, and community members for the purpose of:

- Identifying resources, and
- Sharing ideas and understandings

BUILDING LEVEL DIVERSITY CADRES

Design building level activities that promote an understanding and appreciation for diversity

Additional Programs and Interventions

District Task Force for Teachers of Grades 6 – 12

The purpose of this task force is to evaluate and plan options for adult learning related to identifying students "at risk." "At risk" will be interpreted broadly to mean alcohol or drug abuse, emotional issues, risk for suicide, and other factors to be identified.

Additional Programs and Interventions

James Childs

- Bias awareness for all employees
- Scheduled days at each school

Teachers Mentor New Students

Youth for Unity Organization

Additional Programs and Interventions

Student Government

Honor Society

Peer Leadership

The Maroon—High School Paper

Gay/Straight Alliance

Peer Mediation

The Social Club

Additional Programs and Interventions

Youth for Unity and Student Government Association Sponsored Celebrations, Discussions, and Assemblies

Field Trips

The “Community Partnership” Programs; Step –up, Youth Mental Health and First Aid Training, NAMI Suicide Prevention training, Stress Busters

The Awareness Group

Guest Speakers

Classroom Discussions on Current Events in and Out of School