

Horseheads Character Education Study Group Minutes October 26, 2010 6:00 – 7:30

Team:	Character Education Study Group	Minutes Taker:	Lisa Earley
Date:	October 26, 2010	Facilitator(s):	Anne-Marie M.-Bailey, Lisa Earley
Time:	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Location:	Education Support Center

Item	Discussion/Notes
<p>1. Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of all Study Group Members 	<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Anne-Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for donating their time to serve on the Character Education Study Group.</p> <p>The members introduced themselves and shared what building and group they were representing.</p>
<p>2. Review the task given to the Study Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Strategic Target –Intent #1 for Character Education 	<p>Lisa shared a copy of the Strategic Intent # 1 and reviewed the task for the committee.</p> <p>1.4 To research new and updated tools that assess character traits</p> <p>1.5 Identify other states and programs that have successful outcomes</p> <p>2.2 Solicit input from staff on current practices</p> <p>5.1 Assess what we currently have in place</p> <p>5.2 Look at other schools as exemplars</p>
<p>3. What are important aspects of an effective Character Education Program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback activity 	<p>Anne-Marie asked all members to participate in an activity to come-up with aspects of a successful Character Education Program.</p> <p>The group came up with many aspects that they believed to be important for a Character Education Program. (See the attached form A for aspects)</p>
<p>4. Share Back Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A representative from each school will provide an overview of their Character Education Program 	<p>A member from each of the four elementary schools, the intermediate school, middle school and high school shared highlights about the current practices in their respective buildings for Character Education.</p> <p>The committee discussed that we had some very good Character Education Programs/ Activities going on in all of our buildings. The committee would like to see what other programs are available but were very positive about all of the great things we were already doing to support Character Education in our district.</p> <p>(See the attached form B for highlights from each building)</p>
<p>5. Planning for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and assign members to bring back information on other Character Education Programs 	<p>The committee members listed some different programs on Character Education that they could do research on and bring back to the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jay will check on the 4th and 5th R program through Cortland - Belinda will check into the Character Counts Program - Ken will check into the Second Step Program - Alice will check into Habits of Mind

Highlights of Char. Ed. Programs Currently in our District
10/26/10

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

All classrooms have a book with activities and lessons surrounding their traits

The traits that are focused on change by the semester

Traits are reinforced by the morning announcements, activities, and things in the hall

Throughout the year they have cards given to students who display good character. At the end of the year these students get a breakfast

The traits are presented in the newsletter for parents

The IS traits are: Respect, Caring/Tolerance, Honesty/Trustworthiness, and Responsibility

GARDNER RD:

- Character Ed book in all classrooms
- Monthly traits are reinforced through writing, phys ed, music, etc.
- On daily TV news, traits are discussed, explained, give examples
- Newsletter to parents with each monthly focus
- Posters made by kids hanging in school
- Blue ticket with raffles (caught being good=blue ticket)
- “Show of Love” assembly in the beginning of the school year

10 Traits at GR:

Manners, responsibility, citizenship, caring, self control, acceptance, honesty, respect, perseverance, team work.

BIG FLATS:

- Town meetings 1st week of school with principal to go over expectations, character traits
- Good apple award to students monthly. Names and pics in foyer, names in newsletter
- TV news reinforces traits with a daily example

CENTER STREET:

- How full is your bucket program-every room has a bucket and book
- Morning announcements; discuss traits
- “Golden spoon” for good café behavior
- Posters of kids in their school showing good character..taken by fourth graders and put all around school
- Good apple awards, tree, certificates..names go in newsletter
- Bully box in nurses office
- Patti has the school to a “promise” for the month’s trait on the announcements

CS Traits:

Responsibility, compassion, respect and self control.

RIDGE ROAD:

- Program booklet with monthly traits developed for each grade level (include lessons, cooperative learning activities, curriculum connections, resources)
- Blue ticket program (caught being good)
- Character Ed. linked into grade level curriculum
- Rock Star program with pictures and certificates celebrated monthly
- Televised announcements always have character quotes
- Character traits are covered in monthly newsletter
- Music, art and PE follow the monthly traits

RR Traits: (monthly)

Respect/responsibility, cooperation, citizenship, caring/tolerance, perseverance/persistence, courage/leadership, honesty/integrity, kindness, fairness, pride

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Raider Way Program

- Starts in Sept. with big assembly and expectations clearly defined
- Posters and signs all over the building
- Easy to implement/teach/prove
- Counselors going into classrooms to discuss
- MS is doing a survey to see where the kids are at regarding character, safety, bullying
- Kids start to police each other
- Pony Express passes given to students who consistently display good character and these students are rewarded with a lunch once per marking period also during 10th period they can go to café and socialize with friends, do homework, listen to music, etc

Raider Way traits:

Trustworthy, honest, integrity, loyal, respectful, courteous, polite, accepting, tolerant, responsible, accountable, reliable, a good example, fair and just, open minded, listens, caring, kind, helpful, good citizen, helpful

HIGH SCHOOL:

- No defined Character Ed program- Everything related to District Exit Outcomes
- HS benefits from all the work done in the lower grades (From teaching to incorporating in daily life)
- Freshman first day-the students learn character ed pieces, guidelines for expectations and especially respect and responsibility
- Embedded within lessons
- Many great groups within the building, community service, key club, environmental club, interact club
- Teachers great about character building
- Kids police each other
- Most kids really doing the right thing

Form A
ASPECTS OF A SUCCESSFUL CHAR. ED. PROGRAM

Information Gathering 10/26/10

Implementable—simple

Supported by parents/community

Common traits/terms/language (same language throughout the buildings)

Founded on core values of building and district

Cooperation/communication with parents and all staff

Needs to be relevant to what kids are dealing with

Used consistently

Clear to everyone not just teaching staff

Make sure it is measurable (with data) to see if it is working

Have actions and not just words

Has to be activity based (learn and do)

Student ownership—make it intrinsic—real world applications

Connect to curriculum

Able to connect to behaviors—able to identify traits in every day life

Professional Development for ALL staff to implement program (teachers, bus drivers, café workers, etc)

Follow through and accountability

Align within the community (maybe posters/ signs in local stores etc)

Model the positive behavior and use problems as teachable moments for the character ed program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patti will share information from Dryden School District - Anne-Marie will bring back information on Kagan's Character Education Program - Liz is checking on Victor School District's Program - Tina will check on Webster School District's Program - Anne-Marie will call Canandaigua to see about their Character Education Program
<p>6. Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Study Group Meeting: November 30, 2010 • Questions 	<p>The committee members decided to bring the information they gather to the November 30th meeting to share.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm</p>

Building People and Organizations