

Minutes

Study Group

March 29, 2011

7:00-9:00 p.m., Beach Street School Library

1. All member of the Study Group were in attendance with the following exceptions: Bernie Jones-arrived at 8:30 p.m.; Andrew Federico; Theresa Robertson.
2. Mr. Simon had the group pair off, select one of the four articles that had been assigned for homework; discuss the article; and then share one important point that the pair believes would inform the work of the Study Group.
3. Mrs. Burns then provided an overview of the new SCOPE School Atlas. Each Study Group member received a handout consisting of pages 7, 35-39, 48, 60, and 62. The School District Boundary Census Data for West Islip shows a decline in the number of children 5 years from now in each of the four age cohorts.
4. Joan Townley from Western Suffolk BOCES gave a power point presentation "Demographic and Enrollment Overview." The power point included enrollment history on Long Island as well as specific data for West Islip. Topics covered included the birth rate, housing, non-public enrollment, age distribution, and kindergarten information. Study Group members also received draft copies of the introduction and the first two sections of the Western Suffolk BOCES report being prepared for West Islip. The introduction consisted of the Bi-county School Enrollment data 2004-2013, Section One consisted of Demographic Analysis, and Section Two consisted of an Enrollment Analysis.
5. Mike Keany then led the Study Group through a "Museum Walk" activity as a means of generating lists of ideas to consider addressing the long term implications of the changes in enrollment and the fiscal challenges facing the district. The group was divided into four groups with each generating a list of ideas. The groups then rotated around to the other three groups to learn about their lists and to add their own comments and ideas. The conclusion to the activity involved the participants placing blue dots next to those ideas that they believe should be priorities. (See attached lists for details.)
6. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.