



**Victor Central School District  
District Council  
MINUTES**

May 19, 2021

**ZOOM**

3:45-5:00

<b>Roles:</b>
Facilitator: Roni Puglisi Time Keeper: Dave Thering Organizer: N/A Minutes: Staci Thibodeau/Chuck Loray Refreshments: N/A

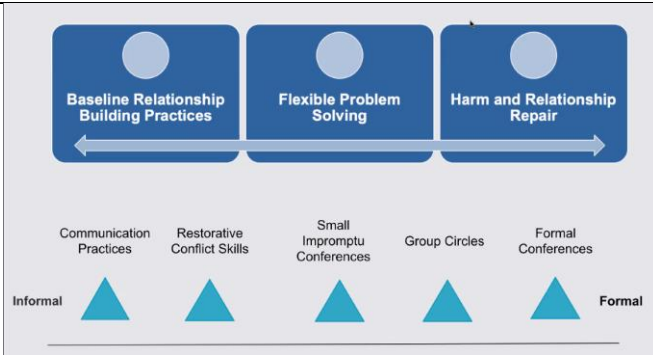
<b>Members:</b>		
Gisela Armbruster <del>Shawn Baldwin</del> Lauri Boone <del>Naomi Foley</del> <del>Chloe Haller</del>	Sharon Hodownes Tara Hopson Chuck Loray <del>Sophia Marro</del> Roni Puglisi	Cindy Riley Colleen Saar Kristina Sykes Dave Thering Staci Thibodeau
Guests: Heather Boyle, Gwen Olton, Gandhi Institute, Dr. Terranova		

#	Topic/Subject	Person Responsible (if not all)	Time Allotted	Purpose/ Proposed Action				
				For Info	Work Session	Make Recommendation	Assign Task	Make a Decision
<b>Opening</b>			<b>5 min.</b>					
1	Welcome/ Introductions	Roni	1 min	X				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Terranova, Heather Boyle and Gwen Olton were guests for today's meeting. Gwen Olton is visiting from the Gandhi Institute to share information regarding Restorative Practices.</li> </ul>								

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2	Approve minutes of 4/28/21	N/A	3 min				X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gisela Armbruster made a motion to approve the Minutes. Dave Thering seconded</li> </ul>							
3	Review agenda	Roni	1 min	X			
<p>Roni reviewed the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwen Olton will be presenting from the Gandhi Institute re: restorative practices. During the presentation, the group was asked to share out a wondering or “ah ha” moment after Gwen’s presentation to take with us moving forward</li> <li>Old Business – determine who will represent each Shared Decision Making team to share out highlights at the June meeting</li> <li>Roni will share information regarding current requests related to next year’s Shared Decision Making Training</li> </ul>							
<b>Guest Presentation</b>		<b>45 min</b>					
4	Restorative Practices	Gandhi Institute		X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwen Olton, Director of Training and Education from the Gandhi Institute. (Slideshow will be shared)</li> <li>Restorative Practices fall under the Umbrella of the Restorative Justice Model. There are a lot of practices that are considered Restorative Practices.</li> <li>Gwen acknowledged that most Restorative Justice practices come from indigenous people and acknowledged this origin</li> <li>Our understanding of justice comes from multiple pathways (at home, in school, and in our culture). There is an impact of generation on our understanding. What we think about as fair or right consequences depends on the lens and history through which we view justice</li> <li>Justice has to do with our conceptualization of what is “fair”. This differs by culture. It can address a range of issues including how resources are distributed, what social agreements we have and what consequences would be expected</li> <li>For the most part, the US Criminal Justice system is based upon concepts of Retributive Justice and Deterrence. Retributive Justice is meant to be impartial and is not meant to be based upon revenge. Victims of crime are not meant to be deciders of what punishment will be. In a Deterrent model, punishment is to prevent the offender, and others, from engaging in behavior in the future.</li> <li>Restorative Justice model says the main task of a justice system is to fix what was damaged or harmed by whatever happened. Repair any harm or repair/restore relationships that were messed up by inflicting a harm on someone; What happened and what can we do to make it right?</li> <li>Benefits of Restorative Model in Schools – observed in some degree in research, effect may be a result of many things and not solely Restorative Justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Reduce student suspensions</li> <li>★ Reduce discipline disparities</li> <li>★ Violence prevention</li> <li>★ Reduction in bullying</li> <li>★ Improvement in school climate</li> </ul> </li> <li>Practices range from informal to formal</li> </ul>							

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- Where to Start? - Mindset change, different lens

**Key Assumptions**

- Harmful behavior is harmful to a person or a community, not a governing power
- All behavior is an attempt to meet a need; everyone has needs
- Everyone has intrinsic worth
- Conflict is inevitable and is an opportunity for relationship building
- Peace, order, justice, etc. are restored after a harmful event by repairing harm done and restoring relationships

- Larger Understanding of Needs



- Start small
  - Communication practices
  - Using a circle process for meetings, transitions
  - Building group agreements
  - De-escalation strategies
  - Take time to process events
- Formalizing
  - Examine current practices first
  - Building champion groups
  - Grow at a pace that can be supported
  - Feedback - Integrate concerns
  - Ensuring parallel process

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Q and A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gwen will share the presentation with Roni</li> <li>○ How to navigate personal/family values that conflict? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Don't need to "sell" specifics - focus on grander idea of justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Don't need to "sell" the whole process of restorative justice</li> <li>● Look for ways to simply improve in ways that work/fit</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Student leaders can be a powerful tool, once procedures are in place</li> </ul> </li> </ul>								
<b>1 min</b>								
5	Update: Invite Council Reps to June Meeting to Share Highlights	All	1 min	X				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What were council goals this year? Progress? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will the rep come to the meeting?</li> <li>○ No? Have highlights outlined</li> </ul> </li> </ul>								
<b>New Business</b>				<b>14 min</b>				
6	Take-away From Presentation Whip – aha moment, wonderings, general thoughts	All	13 min					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A lot to take on for a formal process</li> <li>● Include small pieces at a time to improve communication, approach, etc.</li> <li>● Integration/alignment from building to building</li> <li>● Each building can assess what their needs are, what their starting point should be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ i.e. - Intermediate currently focused on reflection</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kids need to be in school - alternative approach to suspensions</li> <li>● Concern - lost instructional time due to other pieces in place</li> <li>● "Eat our own cooking" - start with adults</li> <li>● Relationship building is a major piece</li> </ul>								
7	SDM Training Requests	Roni	1 min				X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Push to June Meeting</li> </ul>								
<b>Closing</b>				<b>10 min</b>				
8	Review assigned tasks	Minute Taker	2 min				X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Touch base with council reps or bring highlights</li> <li>● Code of Conduct Plain Language - Roni to send out</li> </ul>								
9	Set agenda and roles for next mtg.	Facilitator	2 min					X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share Council Highlights</li> <li>● SDM Training Discussion</li> <li>● SDM dates set</li> <li>● Update DC goals</li> </ul>								

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10	Parking Lot Attendant	Facilitator	2 min	1. 2.				
11	Roundtable	All	4 min	X				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All good!</li> <li>● Dr. Terranova             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared Decision-Making - Strategic Planning Collaboration                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Academic and Social/Emotional priorities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>								

**Future Meeting Dates:**  
6/9/21