

MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting Minutes, January 20th 2010

The SCA presented Johanna Mathieson, Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island at the MS/HS Joint SCA Meeting on January 20th in the Black Box Theater. The meeting began promptly at 8pm with a Guidance update from Jane Grappone. The presentation, P2P Parent Workshop, dealt with critically important issues around peer pressure and its' influence on children. Many adolescents engage in behaviors that put their health and safety at risk and it is important that we recognize and address the issues before tragedy occurs.

- signs that a child is being bullied or pressured to participate in illegal/unhealthy activities
- the role technology plays in peer pressure and bullying activities
- how to help a child stand up to peer pressure
- over-the-counter drugs and prescriptions and the role they play as "gateway drugs"
- steps to take to keep the lines of communication open between you and your child
- steps to take if you find out that a child has become involved in drugs and/or alcohol

After a Q & A the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45.

BIO: Johanna Mathieson, M.S. Ed., SAS, SDA

Director of Safety Education, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island

Johanna joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island in 2007, bringing to this amazing organization over 25 years of experience as an educator and administrator. As the Director of two alternative high school programs for at-risk youth, Johanna has had the opportunity to experience, first-hand, many of the difficulties, dangers and obstacles facing young people today. She applies her background knowledge to the research and development of curricula and programs that are cutting edge and relevant to the needs of educators, parents and students.