

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- **Our mindset:** We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- **Collaboration:** We work better together, always.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- **Integrity:** We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- **Learning environment:** Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- **Equity:** We ensure equity and create access and opportunity for all.
- **Student centered:** We put students first.

Hancock School District kicks-off first *'Cat Safety Study Committee* meeting

HANCOCK – The Hancock Central School District recently held the first of its *'Cat Safety Study Committee* meetings in order to discuss security priorities and what the District can work on to maintain and enhance a safe and nurturing teaching and learning environment.

The school has released the names of some of its key committee members including the chair, board member and experienced law enforcement official Cliff Johnston, along with respected school safety consultants Dr. Albert Penna, and John Mauro, who will provide administrative, executive, and technical support to the task force.

According to Hancock Central School District Superintendent Terry Dougherty, the meeting was an important step for the District in ensuring that it keeps with the times and does everything it can to be proactive in the ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all Hancock students and staff. "I was excited to meet together as a team and discuss this extraordinarily important issue," said Dougherty. "The safety of our students is our number one priority, and we have a committee filled with experienced men and women from different backgrounds that will be able to provide us with vital feedback as we move forward."

Dougherty said the meeting was the *'Cat Safety Study Committee* kick-off, and several topics were discussed including an overall focus on significant development in the field of school safety and security, along with the district's pathways forward. "Our main goal as a safety committee is to develop and submit a detailed advisory report and action plan that provides practical and affordable solutions to meeting the district's safety needs to the board of education by March of 2023," said Dougherty. "We will draw on community knowledge and expertise and on state and federal financial resources to help make it happen." "Ultimately the *'Cat Safety Study Committee* Advisory Report and Action Plan will address the District's safety needs in three major areas: buildings and infrastructure, personnel with the potential for a school resource officer, and planning through the review of the District's safety plan."

Dougherty said the team will meet multiple times between now and March of 2023 in work sessions dedicated to reviewing and finalizing the key sections of the advisory report and action plan. He said each of the sessions will focus on the safety consultants' draft of a section of the advisory report. Dr. Dougherty concluded by stating the "District anticipates that task force members will participate in presenting the advisory report and action plan to the Board of Education and community leaders in late March or early April of 2023."

Those who are interested in keeping in touch with school events and updates may also visit its facebook page at facebook.com/HancockCSD or its website at hancock.stier.org for additional information.