

## DECISION-MAKERS ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TRY SDM

Over the years we've done many information sessions for prospective Decision-Makers, including a number at the Cooke School, but this week was a first. Hosted by Cooke Transition Director Katie Riordan, and facilitated by SDMNY's own Joan Cornachio, the session, with more than 16 Cooke students and alums attending, was led by two Cooke graduates who have signed their SDMAs. Andrew and Josh did a great job, and made us very, very proud.

Given that one of the students (and her mom) were Zooming in from Hawaii, Josh pointed out that you can choose your supporters from "anywhere in the world", mentioning his former math teacher from Cooke, family friends, and his cousin in Argentina.

Andrew did a great job explaining what SDM is all about, and why it is important: "you have the right by law to make your own decisions....you choose people you love and trust ...supporters are here to talk to you about your decisions, but can't make decisions for you."



*Left to right: Katie, Joan, Josh, Andrew, Andrew's mom and Supporter Larissa*

The attendees enthusiastically joined in the conversation, comparing decisions they had made, or might be about to make. One student summed up how she felt about the session; "I really like this meeting and I would love to learn more about all of this stuff."

As a surprise guest, Andrew's mom Larissa, who is not only one of his Supporters, but also a chosen Supporter of Andrew's best friend, (another Cooke student), joined at the end, just in case there were also some parents in attendance, (and there were!).

We've always known that there are no better ambassadors for SDM and SDMNY than our Decision-Makers, and this informative and inspiring information session certainly proved the point.

**THANKS ANDREW AND JOSH, FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**