

**LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE
MAY 24, 2023
MINUTES**

Mrs. Roll called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Wellness Policy Evaluation Tool

Mrs. Roll noted that the online tool had been included with the meeting agenda that was emailed to Wellness Committee members prior to today's meeting. While Principals are responsible for submitting the completed document, Mrs. Roll suggested that other staff members (team approach) may be helpful in ensuring that the evaluation reflects the current practice at the school level. This is especially true at the Middle School and High School. School nurses, PE/Health Educators may be especially helpful. The District's goal is "compliance," ie Meeting the Standard. Where there is evidence of Exceeding the Standard, that evidence should be noted in the space provided. Identifying areas in need of improvement will be useful in helping the Wellness Committee focus future efforts. Mrs. Roll noted that one area in need of improvement in past evaluations has been communicating Wellness Policy requirements for communicating with parents/families, snacks in school, sales of competitive foods in school during the school day and fundraising.

Dr. McNamara noted that the District is required to submit a School Health Report to RIDE annually. He would like to bring this report to the first meeting of the Wellness Committee in the Fall for discussion as it may also help inform the work of the Wellness Committee.

Social Emotional Learning

The work of the SEL subgroup this year has focused on evaluating current efforts K-12. Elements of key SEL skills are already in place K-12, but the need for a common vocabulary reflecting a common understanding of what SEL looks like has emerged as a need going forward. SEL has been included in the six skill areas included in the Vision of the Graduate and is also embedded in the District strategic plan which is currently being updated. The Wellness committee will continue to include this work during the 2023-24 school year.

LHS Green Team/Recycling

Members of the LHS Green Team, High School students SH and AH, updated the Wellness Committee on the efforts this year to address recycling and food waste in the Cafeteria. A number of challenges were discussed including the separation of recyclables and the challenge of reducing food waste. This year, the Green Team focused their efforts on developing a communication plan to help students understand the problem of food waste. A refrigerator has

been obtained to help with establishing a "Share Table" in the cafeteria next year. Representatives from Chartwells spoke about the challenges for the school's food service when it comes to controlling and disposing of food waste. The amount of food provided to students is determined by federal/state regulations. Once a process is put in place for separating food waste from other recycling, it is the School Department that is responsible for implementing any composting plan. A plan for turning food waste into compost that has a market is not in place in Rhode Island on any significant scale. Karin Wetherill suggested that the RI Recycling Club could be helpful to the LHS Green Team in taking next steps and connecting LHS efforts to other school districts in RI also involved in the effort to reduce food waste. She will email contact information for the leaders of this organization to the students. Mrs. Roll also noted that the LHS Green Team has not really had a full time Advisor to support them. Mr. Hurley assured the students that he would make sure that the school's new Principal would be alerted to their need.

Karin Wetherill announced that the RI Healthy Schools Coalition's Wellness Breakfast is October 26th at the Crowne Plaza.

The next District Wellness meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023.

Posted: May 30, 2023