

Lincoln Public Schools
Health & Wellness Committee
February 26, 2025
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM and introductions were made.

Mr. Russo reported on the introduction of the Food Waste Recycling Program at Saylesville Elementary School in January. He noted the role of the RI Recycling Program's support in providing training for student Rangers and Custodial staff. Mrs. Sarah indicated that Central Elementary is looking forward to implementing their program in March. She added that the 3rd-grade students at Central also had a very interesting tour of the RI Recycling Facility in January. Kendra Gay, a Lincoln parent who is involved with the RI Recycling Project, reported that the Food Waste Recycling Program was introduced at Lonsdale during the first week of February. She noted that there were some initial challenges, largely related to the cafeteria's space, that could be managed with some modifications and additional support. Members of the LHS Green Team also participated during the 2-week implementation period in order to prepare to assist in the implementation of Food Waste Recycling at LHS at the beginning of the 2025-26 School year. LMS will also implement the program at the same time. RI Recycling Program will also be available to support both schools.

Eliza Gobin provided an update on the efforts of the LHS Green Team to raise awareness around a variety of environmental issues, including the recycling of food waste. The Green Team hopes to work with the Club for Change as well as individual students interested in environmental issues to support community-based efforts, including town-wide clean-ups and an Earth Week at LHS in the Spring. A field trip to the RI Resource Recovery in the Spring as well. Representatives of the Green Team will be attending the Compost Conference at RIC as well as the RI Environmental Summit in the coming weeks. They are also interested in working with Mr. Hopkins on an effort to achieve a UNESCO Green Ranking.

Dr. McNamara asked the principals present to share feedback from discussions at the school level using the rubric for considering the schools' efforts to engage families. The feedback included efforts at all of the schools to communicate with families using a variety of tools, working with parent organizations, and the inclusion of parents on School Improvement Teams. The importance of providing families with information that is valuable in supporting their students as well the schools was an area where there is more work to do, especially as students move from elementary to Middle and High School. For the next steps, Dr. McNamara indicated that Principals would receive an additional rubric from the New Teacher Project that would offer an opportunity to continue the conversation at the school level with the objective of identifying a "standard" of family engagement that is "in need of improvement".

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.