

Lincoln Public Schools

Health and Wellness Committee

September 27, 2023

Minutes

Mary Anne Roll opened the meeting by introducing Warren Heyman and Jim Corwin from the RI Recycling Club/ Program. This effort is focused on engaging schools (students and staff) in the reduction of food waste in school cafeterias as required by state law that requires all school districts, with six exceptions, to develop a process to divert food waste and recover surplus food at their schools. Their presentation provided a model that has been successful in elementary schools in North Providence and Providence. The project is interested in working with Lincoln Public Schools to introduce this model in the schools and in particular, at Lincoln High School. The Wellness Committee will include this possibility as part of the Green Team Workgroup that it established in 2022.

Mrs. Roll shared the 2022 Health and Wellness Committee Annual Report that was provided to the Lincoln School Committee at its September meeting. The report included information provided by Principals and other staff who completed the annual evaluation of the District's Wellness Policy at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Principals reported that the schools are generally meeting the requirements of state and federal requirements in the areas of Nutrition, Health and Physical Education, and Staff Wellness. Areas in need of improvement included implementation of the new RI Health Education Framework, increasing physical activity outside of PE, reducing food waste, and including a Wellness Goal in School improvement plans. A Policy Implementation Checklist for Principals and Staff was distributed.

The 2023-24 Work Groups that will continue from the 2021-22 school year include SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and the Green Team. Absenteeism emerged as a common concern from those Principals present. The Committee will consider including an additional Work Group at its next meeting.

Dr. McNamara distributed copies of RIDE's School Health Report. He suggested that the Wellness Committee review this as a means of informing its work.

Karin Wetherill from the RI Healthy Schools Coalition spoke about the Annual Breakfast for School Leaders on October 26th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Mrs. Roll indicated that Lincoln has secured a Table of 10. Members of the Wellness Committee were asked to indicate their interest as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Wellness Committee was scheduled for November 1, 2023.

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