

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mary Anne Roll, at 8:06 am

New and returning members of the committee were welcomed and introduced.

Discussion of use of tobacco products on school premises.

Mrs. Roll met with Ms. Fortunato, Kevin McNamara, Mark Thompson and Alec Ciminello.

Initial policy was written in 1993. Discussion focused on consequences for violations. Need to address e-cigarette and any other new forms. Currently the only consequence was suspension. Looked at model policies. Need to have a range of discipline including education. This conversation led to a need to review another policy (Student Conduct). This is a much lengthier policy and will take longer to review. Ms. Fortunato and the school Principals and Assistant Principals will assist. which will be looked at in the near future but will take time.

Question posed by Mrs. Roll, "Is this enough?" Discussion involved the need for education, treatment for addiction, referral to support personnel. Pam Shayer discussed Grant through CVS for smoking cessation. Delineated between policy and procedure – procedure gives latitude – depends on the scenario presented – individual vs. group; first offense vs. repeated abuse. Also, procedure needs to align with student handbook. Importance of communication with parents discussed. Not a huge issue with nicotine and cigarettes, but use vapor pen, including with cannabis may emerge as a school issue. Education remains the key.

Staff – state law – progressive discipline will be implemented. Discussed need to educate faculty and staff about new law. Suggested signage and notification of staff and bus company/drivers. Also acknowledged that nicotine use may lead to addiction. This is a medical issue as well as a disciplinary issue in schools.

Grant Update - Mary Ann McComiskey

Materials have been ordered.

The first meeting at GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) is March 18th at 2 PM

Parent Forum is planned for May to address sexuality, sexual health and mental health issues.

Andrew Viveiros provided information about a new resource to start gardens in all schools. He also reported on the Table Hosting at Lonsdale. Over 20 parents assisted. Great comments/feedback.

School Reports

High School – “Your Skin Is In” program beginning again. Speaker coming on March 9th – Derma scan machine will be available. PE is covering skin cancer in class as well.

Mrs. Roll – online evaluation of Health and Wellness needs to be reviewed before the end of the school year. Jim Frost and Andrew Viveiros agreed to assist. Meeting will be scheduled soon.

Ms. Fortunato – Anti-Bullying Task Force has met several times. Good representation of stakeholders on the committee. Zero tolerance.

February vacation – no decision has been made for future. Next year there will be February vacation. Last day of school is Friday, June 19th. Hoping to avoid another no school day. Will try to do one hour delay or early dismissal if possible.

NEXT MEETING: May 20, 2015

Meeting Adjourned 9:02 am

Respectfully Submitted By

Mary Ann McComiskey