

Health & Wellness Committee Meeting
May 1, 2024
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

Dr. McNamara asked that the Principals and/or School Nurses present to review the work at their schools to address concerns related to student absenteeism in response to RIDE requirement included in the School Health Report that the District must submit. All noted the value of collecting the data and reviewing it with school-based teams. This has led to a variety of approaches and interventions at all schools. A common theme across schools is the importance of engaging families in the effort to reduce absenteeism given the impact on a student's success in school. While there has been a reduction in numbers, the effort to address this concern will need to continue.

Members of the LHS Green Team reported on the implementation of a Share Table at LHS as a step toward reducing food waste in the cafeteria, noting that more work needed to be done to build awareness among LHS students about the placement and purpose of the Share Table.

Mrs. Roll reported on her visit to Garvin Memorial Elementary School in Cumberland on the first day of the school-wide implementation of the RI Recycling Club's Cafeteria Ranger Model for reducing food waste. She noted that that Cumberland, along with a number of other neighboring School Districts have committed to implementing this program district-wide in the 2024-25 school year and that there is still grant money is available to support this effort.

Pam Shayer from the Blackstone Valley Prevention Coalition reported that several Lincoln teachers are being trained in the "Catch Your Breath" vaping education program in the coming weeks. The RI Student Assistance Survey will be administered in the coming weeks at LHS. This survey may provide additional data regarding vaping and other health behaviors that will be helpful to both the Prevention Coalition and the School District.

Mrs. Roll briefly reviewed the Annual District Wellness Policy Evaluation Tool. Principals are asked to complete this online tool with input from those staff members directly involved in the areas of School Nutrition, Health and Physical Education, Staff Wellness as well as support staff whose role may be helpful. She noted that the expectation is that across all components, Lincoln's schools are Meeting Expectations. In those areas where a school is Exceeding Expectations, Principals are asked to provide supporting evidence, and if there are areas in Need of Improvement, steps to address may be included or there may be areas of District focus for the coming year. Dr. McNamara will provide the link to the Evaluation Tool and Principals are asked to complete them by June 30th. These school reports are used in developing the Annual Report to the School Committee at the beginning of the new School Year and may be helpful in focusing the future work of the District Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Roll thanked all the members of the Wellness Committee for their work over the past year and their participation in the Quarterly meetings of the Committee. The next meeting of the District Wellness Committee will be scheduled at the beginning of the new School year.

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