

MEETING OF THE WELLNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:00 PM

School Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Call to Order

The Wellness Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Linda

Mendonca who chaired the meeting in the absence of Joanne Bonollo. Ms. Mendonca

welcomed attending members Miriam Plitt and Ken Bowdish. Ronnie Cremonini was also present.

Public Participation - None

Accept Previous Meetings' Minutes

Mr. Bowdish motioned to accept the meeting minutes of 3/23/11 and 4/26/11. Miriam

Plitt seconded. Motion approved.

Wellness Policy

The Committee reviewed the mission statement drafted from the previous meeting and

agreed the statement needed to be further streamlined. The members also agreed the last

paragraph was redundant and should be deleted. Ms. Mendonca asked the Committee to bring changes to the next meeting.

Mr. Bowdish presented a report of school events that typically serve

snacks/food

outside of district-provided meals. The report contained a breakdown of several Rhode Island

school districts and a brief summation of their policies regarding sale of food for fundraising

projects; teacher-to-student acknowledgements; and, incentives. Mr. Bowdish recommended

Pawtucket School District not entirely ban snacks/foods, but find moderation, which adheres to

nutritional standards and promotes healthy behavior. He reported Coventry School District

annually evaluates and measures the progress of its wellness policies via school reporting to the

Superintendent.

Miriam Plitt presented research on outside wellness resources. She was also impressed

with Coventry School District and recommended utilizing resources links shared by it. Miriam

also recommended the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) as an excellent source of

information.

Mr. Bowdish suggested looking at the Center for Disease Control's website and Ms.

Mendonca recommended Rhode Island's Coordinated School Health Program, "thrive" found

on RIDE's website. Miriam suggested the possibility of URI as a source for food safety.

Ms. Mendonca spoke on curriculum and updated the Committee on the PEP grant. She

is hopeful Pawtucket School District will receive some of this money, which will go towards

curriculum. Notification could be at the end of June, 2011. Ms. Mendonca will bring PEP data

to the next Wellness Committee Meeting to share with members. She felt the data will inspire

the District to strive for consistency between schools in health curriculum.

Special Reports

Report Neighborhood Health - Ms. Plitt reported Joe McNamara's legislative bill is

waiting to be heard. Karjn Wetherill and Miriam Plitt attended a breakfast on May 6, 2011

hosted by Kent County and The Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, which focused on

improving the health of Rhode Island counties. Miriam believed it was an informative meeting

and Warwick/Kent County will be a good prototype to follow.

Report Blackstone Valley Community Health - None

Report Kids First - None _____

Report Sodexo - Linda Mendonca reported Solange Morrissette was in Washington, D.C.

and met with Congressman David Cicilinni's Chief of Staff. They discussed the U.S.D.A.

Nutrition Service's Healthier US Schools Challenge program in addition to grant opportunities available for Pawtucket School District.

New Business - None

Open Forum - Miriam Plitt referenced the Backpack Program, and after some discussion

regarding personal responsibility, it was suggested that should the program be reinstalled,

parents be enlisted to help facilitate the program in exchange for backpacks. The Committee

asked that the Backpack Program be brought up at the next meeting.

Set Meeting Date - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.