

Lincoln Public Schools
Health and Wellness Committee

May 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Mary Ann Roll at 8:05 am. Introductions were made.

The meeting included a review, discussion and possible next steps related to the topics that were the focus for 2016-2017.

LATER START TIME: Cameron Deutsch spoke on the later start time. He reported that a bill was introduced in the General Assembly requiring that all high schools start at 8:30 AM or later. He testified on the bill when it was heard in the House HEW Committee. In Lincoln, the Superintendent will be conducting a survey of parents to get a better idea of the district's transportation needs. Mary Anne noted that there continues to be great interest in this issue not only in R, but also nationally. While there is wide agreement on the research, there are both transportation costs associated with the change and opposition from some parents and students that remain challenges. She thanked Cameron for bringing this issue to the Wellness Committee and invited him to continue in his Senior year.

GENDER IDENTITY: Nate DerHagopian reported on the first meeting of the Gender Identity Policy work group that was held on May 16th. In addition to Nate, the working group includes Georgia Fortunato, Kevin McNamara, Mary Anne Roll, Rhonda Sexton, Karen Kruth, Sarah Owens, Nicole Hallam and parent representatives from the elementary, middle and high school.

Mary Anne also spoke about the presentation by the South Kingstown School Dept. at the Annual Meeting of the RI Association of School Committees. While the purpose of the Wellness Committee Work group is to develop a draft policy to present to the Lincoln School Committee's Policy Subcommittee, there are steps that can be taken to address both safety and privacy issues before the policies a final policy is approved. The Superintendent, Mrs. Sexton and Mr. McNamara spoke about some of the steps that have been taken to support students based on their needs and policies that already exist to ensure the safety of all students.

Mr. Frost responded to a question from Dr. Chan about the degree to which the Health Curriculum addresses the issues connected to the district's efforts to support LBGTQ students. He described the way in which a variety of required health topics are addressed and expressed his continued concern that limited time impacts instruction in Health Education.

Mrs. Bedrossian thanked Nate for his presentation in her health classes. She said that it was very well received by all of her students, indicating that students at LHS are very comfortable talking about this and other related issues in her class. Nate reiterated his strong feeling that, at least in his case, he "could be a unicorn" and it would not matter. His concern is about making sure that

all students, including those at LMS feel the same. He believes education overcomes the fear that often creates problems among and between students.

Rhonda mentioned the importance of continuing to provide parents with opportunities to learn more about the issues related to adolescent health.

Mr. McNamara reported on his meeting with Rosemary Reilly-Chamatt from RIDE. Continued professional development for staff is important. While the time issue is a reality, the school can do more by evaluating and consolidating resources and combining them with best practice.

Rhonda reported on the SHAC grant. She has a WISH LIST of materials for LMS and LHS that she hopes will be funded by the remaining funds available through RIDE. Mary Anne thanked Rhonda for all the work she has done as a member of the Wellness Committee. as she prepares to

HOMEWORK: Mary Anne shared the South Kingstown School Department Policy that includes suggested specific amounts of time appropriate for homework at various grade levels.

Mr. McNamara reported that he had had discussions with LHS Department Chairs regarding homework issues raised in the Wellness Committee and that some language would be included in LHS handbook.

October 13 is the RI Health conference (same day as our district walk).

Mary Anne thanked the members of the Wellness Committee for their participation this year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am

Next meeting in Fall 2017