



## MINUTES

Providence School Board Health & Wellness Committee Meeting  
797 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

January 23, 2019

### CONVENE MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order - Committee Chair Robert Gondola, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

#### **In Attendance:**

Robert Gondola, Committee Chair  
Linda Grossi, HPE Teacher Gilbert Stuart/Physical Health Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Donna O'Connor, Social-Emotional Learning Co-Chair  
Jennifer Quigley-Harris, RIDE & RIHSC /Healthy Relationship Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Ellen Cynar, City of Providence Healthy Communities Office (HCO)  
Jennifer Schwarz, School-Based Clinical Administrator, FSRI  
Joanna Raymond, URI SNAP-Ed  
John Ledwick, Edvocate Consultant  
Joseph DiPina, Chief of Administration  
Joyce Bernau-Enriquez, Central High School teacher & Student at Salve Regina University  
Karin Wetherill, Co-Director of the RI Healthy Schools Coalition  
Lino Cambio, PPSD Supervisor Food Services  
Michelle Soto, PPSNE  
Rachel Newman Greene, City of Providence Healthy Communities Office  
Sandra Sepe, Sodexo  
Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator

Nina Pande, School Board Vice President arrived at 4:57 p.m.

Donna O'Connor, left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**Community/Guest Attendance:** Reverend Phillip Devens, Multicultural Civic Engagement Team (MCET); Howard Washington, MCET; Shawndell Burney-Speaks, MCET/ Community Advisor for the Mayor's Office; Caterina Margera, SNAP-Ed/URI Graduate Student and Amy Moore, URI Graduate Student.

### APPROVE AGENDA

2. Approve Agenda as presented  
**A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented**  
**MSV – Grossi, Newman Greene (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**

## CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes -- November 28, 2018, and January 9, 2019 Food Services RFP

**A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented  
MSV – Grossi, Newman Greene (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**

## MEETING TOPICS

4. PPSD Wellness Coordinator Update – Solight Sou

Since October, she has been in the position of PPSD Wellness Coordinator to provide support and enhance anything the schools or partners are undertaking relative to health and wellness of staff and students.

Her first goal is to reach out to the 41 schools in the district, and she has been visiting some schools, and continues scheduling meetings with the necessary staff such as principals, assistant principals, nurses, social workers, physical ed/health teachers and to talk with them about health and wellness. These meetings will lead to a creation of shared vision of what wellness is for PPSD's staff and students, and it is part of the District's five year strategic plan, and will result in a healthy and diverse student body that is ready to learn and thrive.

Outreach and education will continue to be a priority as a way to heighten understanding of the link between health, wellness and students success. There is a need to improve communication of the Wellness Policy and successes to schools, youth, families and the general community.

The position also required that she focus on nutrition, physical activities education, including supporting school environment.

Sou is also working with Family Services of Rhode Island partnership on student asthma management and other chronic condition at two elementary schools.

In addition to supporting the schools, and the district's partners, she also assists the District staff in various capacities relative to health and wellness.

## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. Physical Health & Nutrition Subcommittee Update – Linda Grossi

- The subcommittee was not able to meet prior to this Health & Wellness Committee for an update, therefore they have been working with what they already have in place, and are moving forward with it.

6. Social Emotional Subcommittee Update - Donna O'Connor

- **SEL Subcommittee Goal 2018-2019** - To support and build agency for our schools and community in supporting students Social Emotional Learning and skills. This is being done through a social emotional awareness campaign (through funding from the Healthy communities office) to promote social emotional wellness for students, targeting all stakeholders in the district including; students, parents, school staff and community partners.

**Stage 1** – elementary grades

Campaign first phase to be focused on the elementary grades

Progress to date:

1. Developed campaign materials including, development of universal symbols (not language based) that represent each competency

2. Developed posters, magnets and stickers to further define and illustrate skills (in both English and Spanish)
3. Developed parent flyer to inform on skills and how to support skills (English and Spanish)
4. Disseminated awareness campaign materials to all elementary schools. Schools are using varied methods of informing about these tools with teachers, students and families including; introducing materials to teachers through common planning, after school PD and coaching. Presentations to PTO's, presentation at school based meetings with parents, parent teacher conference nights (slated for February).
5. Posted skills and links to materials on district website
6. Presented materials at school choice fair
7. Engaged social media through district Facebook and Instagram account (lots of hits and positive comments left on these sites)
8. Feature with the mayor on Channel 6 to discuss the launch of the campaign

#### **Next steps**

1. Gather data from schools regarding strategies utilized to build awareness and further identify needs
  2. Present to district parent organization and at district parent events
  3. Present to partners
  4. Develop campaign and accompanying materials targeting our secondary school students
7. Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Update - Jennifer Quigley-Harris
- The committee met in November and December, where they have contributed significant amount of time discussing goals and where they wanted to go next. Ideas were brainstormed for various activities around goals, and at the end of December, the subcommittee have come up with two broad goals:  
Drafted Goals:
    - 1) Defining, communicating, and building awareness about the Healthy Relationships Subcommittee and the work that the Subcommittee is involved with or promotes.
    - 2) Increasing the presence and engagement of stakeholders, including Health teachers, students, parents, families, and school/district administrators to the subcommittee.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

8. Comments from the Community/Guests -There were no comments from the community.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9. Announcements
  - Cynar - The HCO has been participating in the District's attendance campaign working group and they were able to secure grant funding to support the chronic absenteeism campaign which was developed by JSEC students. It will be peer-to-peer education, hoping to launch at the end of summer or at beginning of the fall.
  - Newman Greene – HCO is accepting proposals to deliver prevention, rescue, recovery and community support services in response to the opioid overdose crisis. There a pre-bid information sessions on February 12<sup>th</sup> at one o'clock.

- Newman Greene – Working with Solight on building a district-wide farm-to-school plan, connecting students with the food system, local procurement, and education on meal and school gardening. The Farm-to-School consultant is in place, her name is Margaret Reed. She will be working with us and key players to identify priority school, district-wide green schoolyards. Also working with Jael Lopes, PPSD Community Partnership Office to develop an application process for green schoolyard.
- Cynar – Menstrual Hygiene Products machines are scheduled to be installed at four schools: Central, and Classical high schools, Greene and DelSesto middle schools in February.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Seek to convene Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (7) – Food Services RFP  
**A motion was made to go into executive session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (7) – Food Services RFP.**  
**MSV – Grossi, Wetherill - MOTION APPROVED (19-0) On a Roll Call Vote: Gondola, Grossi, Quigley-Harris, Cynar, Schwarz, Raymond, Ledwick, DiPina, Wetherill, Cambio, Soto, Newman Greene, Sou, Pande, Devens, Washington, Burney-Speaks, Margera and Moore, with one (1) ABSTENSION - Bernau-Enriquez.**

#### REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Report on Executive Session Votes - There were four vote(s) taken
  - **A motion was made to amend the Food Services RFP recommendation, and share the final document with the District administration.**  
**MSV- DiPina, Pande (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**
  - **A motion was made to seal the minutes in executive session**  
**MSV- DiPina, Pande (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**
  - **A motion was made to come out of Executive Session**  
**MSV- DiPina, Pande (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**
  - **A motion was made to seal the minutes in public session**  
**MSV- DiPina, Pande (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### ADJOURN

12. Adjourn Meeting  
**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM**  
**MSV – DiPina, Grossi (20-0) MOTION APPROVED**