



MINUTES -DRAFT

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

July 24, 2019

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order - Committee Chair Robert Gondola called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Robert Gondola, Committee Chair
Linda Grossi, HPE Teacher Gilbert Stuart/Physical Health Subcommittee Co-Chair
Joyce Bernau-Enriquez, Central High School teacher & Student at Salve Regina University
Krista D'Amico, Director of Prevention RICADV/Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Co-Chair
Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator
Lynne Smith, HPE Teacher Nathanael Greene Middle School
Kyle Quadro, Founder of Tilo
Lynne Conca, Sodexo Operations Manager
Ellen Cynar, Director of Healthy Communities Office

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve Agenda as presented
3. Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2019
A motion was made to approve the consent agenda
MSV – Grossi, Bernau Enriquez (9-0) MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS AND SCHOOL UPDATES

4. Welcome and introduction
Chairman Gondola welcomed all attendees and introduction were made.

Item five was taken out of order

6. Racial Equity - Training feedback
Joyce Bernau Enriquez shared her experience with racial equity they training held at Salve Regina

Bernau Enriquez stated that she was unaware about equity policy from Central Office and later connected with Jael Lopes from the Office of Strategic Partnerships in regards to this.

Gondola - addressing equity is imperative in our city and schools and is at the forefront of all our work.

Gondola - requested to continue agenda item number six at next meeting and asked Solight Sou to request Lopes to attend the next Health & Wellness meeting and to also include any additional staff on the equity workgroup with the aim of addressing equity through a health equity lens. Gondola advises that all subcommittees also incorporate equity in their work as well.

Bernau - suggested that we approach equity as partners and work on engaging staff by addressing climate and culture.

A motion was made to continue item number 6 with caveat to pull in the necessary people from Central Office to attend the next Health & Wellness.

MSV - Bernau Enriquez, D'Amico (9-0) MOTION APPROVED

7. Farm to School Summer Retreat Update

Solight Sou shared progress on the District Team's recent visit to Shelburne Farms in Vermont to further support the USDA Farm to School Planning Grant work through the Healthy Communities Office and Consultant Margaret Read. The District team consisted of District Administrators, a city official, and teachers from our elementary, middle and high schools who have already integrated some form of Farm to School into their lessons and schools, such as school gardens. The 3 day retreat allowed the District Team a unique opportunity to meet with other schools and districts who have either already incorporated a Farm to School program or are also currently planning one. The team was also assigned a coach, Katherine Brown, who assisted with the development of an Action Plan that will also support the ongoing work of the Consultant while also aligning with Providence Schools' Mission, Vision, and 5 Year Strategic Plan.

Smith - Asked how teachers were selected to be a part of the committee.

Sou - Responded that the Consultant provided recommendations based on visits she had made to schools. Attempts to be equitable in regards to existing program distribution and opportunities, as well as school leadership interest, had been taken into consideration. There are also ongoing opportunities to be on either the Advisory or On the Ground team for further planning and she will ensure Ms. Smith has that opportunity.

8. Comments from the Community/Guests

D'Amico - shared 10 Men update on annual recruitment and training and passed around their latest flyer. She explained the purpose of the program and that there was an application process in order to be selected. In early November, there will also be a 10 Men summit.

Grossi - stressed the importance of signage for such program in schools.

Bobby - expressed appreciation for the co-chairs of Healthy Relationships and their work.

5. Update from Chair

Gondola - addressed thoughts on current situation with PPSD while focusing specifically in regards to health and wellness. He began by prefacing to ensure we are aligned on the latest news, updating on Commissioner's calling through the Crowley Act, which passed unanimously.

Moving forward, a legal process ensues while the Commissioner outlines her plans in regards to leadership, governance and structures to improve our schools. Gondola has learned that cause may be found and legal process could result in stakeholders to challenge the Commissioner's authority where a review will be done before a final decision is made leading to possible reconstitution of our schools.

Gondola thanked all the members present and encouraged them to look at the positives, such as the fact that tonight three members of our team are teachers that he has the chance to discuss this with. He suggested we view it as a moment of opportunity even though it has not been a happy experience. He reminded the Health & Wellness Committee to look forward and the greater community's engagement with the district and city. Gondola said the District needs the support and resources to carry out the work that the Committee is doing and that the biggest worry is that benchmarks for test scores are one of the priorities for the state. However, the community is ready for change and to better serve our kids. Unfortunately, we do not have additional details on what the changes will be. Gondola stated that we as a Committee have been doing much of the work to prioritize social-emotional learning, health, and wellness. We are serving our students the best we can. We as a committee should view this current situation as an amplification of our work, and remember the hard work of our committee resulted in the current Sodexo contract meeting the needs of our students for health and wellness.

MEETING TOPICS

9. Subcommittee Action Steps Grid

Krista D'Amico presented the Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Action Steps as requested by Chair Gondola from previous meetings.

Sou - A pdf of this template has been shared with all the co-chairs and Google folders for each subcommittee have been created to store all important files and documents. She is glad to support any of the co-chairs with this new way of sharing our work.

Gondola - Requested Solight Sou share the editable template with all the co-chairs.

Bernau Enriquez - asked for support on how a music teacher could incorporate this into her work when she is not well-versed in this area.

D'Amico is willing to explore this with any interested teachers and there is also an upcoming training she will share

Smith – stated that being respectful and kind is an ongoing process and we need every teacher to do it in a consistent manner with consistent messaging. In the past, cross curriculum work could help achieve this and now this is lacking. Is there any additional support for this, especially for getting the buy in from the students? Another challenge is sustainability and self-motivating teachers and students both.

Gondola - we, even teachers, are all asking for help and hope is on the way.

Gondola - announced that he will schedule a meeting with D'Amico to review documents to capture and track SMART goals for the Healthy Relationships subcommittee.

D'Amico - Healthy Communities Office was generous to fund the printing of the Healthy Relationships Resource Guide card. 25,000 cards were printed and will be distributed to schools and youth serving organizations.

Gondola - asked if we should create a list of all our schools and organize a volunteer committee to deliver packages to health teachers? He suggested the Healthy Relationships subcommittee decide on best ways to distribute, possibly with the HPE teachers, nurses, guidance counselors and through the school culture coordinators. He would also like to pen a letter personally saying thank you on

behalf of our Committee.

Gondola - requested that Solight Sou check in with him within the next 3 weeks to identify successful planning of the SEL committee. An addition request to pull lists of who is present and continue engagement regarding service and attendance for the health & wellness committee.

Bernau Enriquez - shared that August 14, 2019 the Nonviolence Institute is having open house. Also, St Michael's parish is celebrating 160th anniversary Rhodes on Pawtuxet. This is not only a church but also an organization that leads social justice work in the community. Through the partnerships of 16 other organizations, they could also help distribute the Resource Guide cards. She also stated that City Arts will be doing a professional development event.

D'Amico - Another professional development opportunity on the Choose Love curriculum will be offered. It is a train the trainer model consisting of four hours from 12 pm -4 pm with a tentative date in August. A request to share information to everyone was made.

Grossi - asked if it would be helpful to share health curriculum?

Gondola - recommended we take the curriculum stack and divide it up based on related categories for subcommittees. He asked Linda Grossi to take the lead and to add this as work for all subs through future conversations with the subcommittees.

Cynar - This will be so helpful for partners and others since we do not deal with curriculum daily.

Gondola - requested Linda Grossi provide snapshots of curriculum at every meeting.

Lynne - The parent engagement office at District making health and wellness more of a priority and asked about plans for the free menstrual hygiene products in all schools.

Ellen - The products will be distributed district wide at all middle and high schools by 2019-2020 school year. The point of these machines is to be an accessible added support for students. She and her office is happy to help any teachers and schools with support issues. The free products were recently highlighted in a national news segment with PBS Newshour.

Bobby - request to share PBS special clip in an email.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Update
11. Physical Health & Nutrition Subcommittee Update
12. Social Emotional Subcommittee Update

Items 10, 11 and 12 were briefly in discussion with item nine, and to be continued at a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. Announcements
No further announcements

ADJOURN

14. Adjourn Meeting
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM
MSV – Grossi, Bernau Enriquez (9-0) MOTION APPROVED