



## **LNSU/LNMUUSD Safety & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2019**

Members present: Jan Sander, Bill Sander, Patti Hayford, Tina Lowe, Jeff Hunsberger  
Others present: Wendy Savery

Meeting was called to order at 5:10pm, J. Sander moved to approve the agenda, T. Lowe seconded and the motion passed.

Wendy Savery spoke to the group about troubling issues facing our middle school students. While originally invited to speak about the dangers of vaping and other substances, she explained these are only part of a bigger problem facing our teens. Wendy provided two handouts; one contains data collected from LUMS students and the other is information provided by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. She explained that the data listed on the SWIS handout is collected from our current middle level students and is from confirmed cases not all incidences. There is a noticeable increase in theft, disruption of class, and especially inappropriate language and defiance. Wendy explained that these are good kids experiencing symptoms of bigger issues, most likely childhood trauma of some kind. There is also an alarming number of suicide threats and attempts, particularly girls and particularly pills. The handout suggests that death by suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in children ages 10-14 and the second leading cause in ages 15-19. Unfortunately some of the students who are experiencing these issues at LUMS already have professionals who work with them on a regular basis and are still crying for help. Wendy stressed that there needs to be much more mental health intervention than is currently provided. Out of 261 students at LUMS 25-30 are experiencing one or more of these problem behaviors.

The Surgeon General reports that 1 in 5 children and adolescents will face a significant mental health condition during their school years. At LUMS there is only one counselor for all 261 students. There are four individuals who come in periodically to counsel some but they are private providers who bill families directly. Wendy explained that there is a lack of space to accommodate any additional counselors other than the one currently on staff. Also the Federal funding used for helping with these costs is quickly drying up. Teachers and staff are overwhelmed trying to help troubled students in addition to their regular duties. We need new strategies and more funding to help those who are in need of quality mental help.

J. Hunsberger suggested putting together a team to help find ways to improve how needs are met. It needs to be a community effort, it takes a village. J. Sander asked

what we as a board could do to help. Wendy said we need to get parents and community members trained in mental health. Also we need to let our teachers and staff know how much we appreciate their efforts. Wendy and Dylan have already discussed the need for more space to support additional help. The committee urged Wendy to let us know if we can be of any help, we certainly want the best for our students and staff.

J. Sander moved to adjourn at 5:45, T Lowe seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Tina Lowe