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Region 14 Schools

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Safe Schools Committee
Thursday, October 28, 2021
12:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Fire House
26 Main St S, Bethlehem, CT 06751

Present

Michael Devine, Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Christopher Matta

Absent

Tikva Rose

Also Present

Richard Marsh, Police Officer
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Maryanne Van Aken, ASAP Representative
Joy Geraci, JRB Representative

Patricia Paige, Recording Secretary

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 12:14 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

Law Enforcement Update

Officer Marsh noted that SROs at each of the schools have no major issues or concerns to address and that all Region 14 teachers have participated in ALICE training or refreshers. Mr. Devine inquired as to whether or not SROs were keeping logs for the purpose of tracking any issues, which may need to be elevated to the next level.

Risk Assessment Discussion

Risk assessments were performed at each of the schools over the past few months by Officer Rich Marsh. A final written report was offered to the committee for review. The report addressed school surroundings, access control, parking, grounds, entry, building and facility information to name a few, and recommendations, if needed.

ASAP & JRB Update

Representatives from ASAP (Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention) and JRB (Juvenile Review Board), Maryanne Van Aken and Joy Geraci respectively were invited to the committee meeting to provide updates.

The JRB is a community-based program designed for the purpose of early intervention activities and consists of volunteers who attend meetings and hear cases. One of their newest endeavors is addressing chronic

absenteeism at the schools. They also serve as the next line of defense in assisting parents with additional resources. Their next undertaking is to work with the Region 14 administrative team toward consideration that cases be potentially referred to the JRB; they are continually looking for ways to bridge the relationship with the schools and to be a resource in the community.

Part of the process is to hear cases and ask questions in an attempt to restore the relationship that was broken by the action that the child took, how they got there and how to prevent it from happening again in the future. The committee makes a recommendations regarding community service hours, additional counseling if need be, and offers additional resources that might be of help. Over the course of three to six months, they follow up with the student and family to see what has been accomplished.

The ASAP organization received a \$125,000 grant from the Governor to spend in the two communities. Part of their plan is to address anxiety and stress and iPhone addiction.

As an outreach, Mr. Devine suggested that both organizations periodically attend Region 14 Board of Education meetings. Other means were suggested and their viability explored further.

School Safety Plan

Ms. Tanguay is currently gathering all of the components in order to complete the plan, which is due to the state on Monday, November 1, 2021.

School Climate Update

Federal funding has provided for an SEL Coordinator. Ms. Brown, at a recent visit to the high school, noted that students appear to be very happy to be back in school.

Background Checks

Whether or not to allow school visitations was discussed at last evening's Policy Committee meeting. The Bethlehem community has a high Covid positivity rate and thus, Mr. McAllister is not in favor of opening the buildings at this time. He would prefer to wait until the rate lowers to 1-2% before taking into consideration and with that, there is no need for background checks at this point in time.

There was additional discussion on whether or not background checks be performed for new board members; it was decided that the question should be addressed with Legal counsel.

Other Business Properly Brought Before the Committee

N/A

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk