The October 28, 2019 Mental Health Committee meeting minutes are as follows:

"*October 28, 2019*
Mental Health Committee Meeting
Minutes

In Attendance:

Batey, Julie
Beal, Beth
Beeman, Doug
Benson, Amy
Bonenfant, Ashley
Dodge, Susan
Freund, Laurie
Gazy, Colleen
Hill, Andy
Jackson, Eric
Kopacko, Sara
Kramer, Linda
Manos, Jenny
Mcinnes, Jodie
Moore, Steve
Neffenger, Gary
Roberts, Chris
Ross, Lauren
Ruedisueli, Ashley
Schmeltzer, Steph
Simpson, Erin
Stevens, Jill
Tudor, Gabe
Walker, Joyce
Wolf, Dayna
Zakany, Hope

1. Overview of the Implementation Recommendations

A brief overview of how the board-approved implementation recommendations are going was provided. The following was shared:

- *There is one (1) new school counselor at the K-4 grade levels and one (1) new school counselor at the 5-6 grade levels. The early reports associated with these changes have been positive;*
- *School counselors at the high school level have been removed from primary responsibility for 504 plans. The removal of school counselors being the primary contact for testing is in process;*
- *The high school has found a substitute administrator, Mrs. Pepper Bates, to assist with daily administrative tasks for up to fifty (50) days this school year. Mrs. Bates recently started in this role;*
- *One (1) hour/day was added to the clerical position in the school counselor office at the middle school;*

- *Bellefaire JCB has added a second employee to assist with resiliency and other work for students in grades K-8; and*
- *OhioGuidestone is working with our preschool through a United Way grant.*

2. Feedback from Those Directly Involved in the Implementation Recommendations

The following feedback was provided by those directly involved in the implementation recommendations:

- *It was reported that the shift of the primary responsibility of 504 plans to administration at the high school was a big undertaking;*
- *There are changes that the high school administration will make in the 504 process for next year, now that they have been through the process once;*
- *The transition of the point person at the high school for end of course exams, the ACT and AP exams is in progress;*
- *While the 504 plan change has been beneficial from a time standpoint for high school counselors, there are many other things that have consumed their time, including the continual changes in graduation requirements. As a result, the counselors feel they are still unable to address student issues at the level they would like to;*
- *The shift of some 504 plan responsibilities from school counselors to administration and clerical at the high school has created a situation where we need to clearly define what is clerical work and make sure that the clerical work involved in 504 plans is being completed by WESPA members in each building (we can't have Wadsworth Education Association members completing the work in some buildings and Wadsworth Educational Support Personnel Association members completing the same work in other buildings);*
- *It is too early to tell if the additional hour of clerk services at the middle school is having a positive impact because the employee in the position has changed a few times due to the bid process outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement;*
- *Each counselor at CIS is responsbile for one (1) grade level. This has allowed the counselors to focus on student-related items that there was not time for in the past;*
- *The increased days of school counselor service at the elementary level has been very helpful;*
- *OhioGuidestone is working with one (1) preschool classroom this school year. The OhioGuidestone employee is in our district each Monday; and*
- *The Bellefaire JCB employee at the high school has been reduced from three (3) days to two (2).*

3. Other Discussion Items/Feedback

The following was discussed:

- *An overview of prevention programming in the district was discussed. It was shared that we need to look at our prevention programming structure districtwide;*
- *The University of Akron Certified Peer Educator program;*
- *The Mental Health First Aid grant that our district is participating in through Kent State University;*
- *Our district is seeing an increase in the need for the services of a behavioral specialist;*
- *We need to examine the programs we have in place for students who have extreme behaviors; and*

- *The 7 Mindsets social/emotional learning curriculum that CIS and the middle school recently received a grant for to implement during the school day.*

4. Next Steps

The following items were identified as needing further discussion and/or resolution:

- *The need for an additional high school counselor;*
- *The division of work responsibilities between each union and administration, as it pertains to 504 plans;*
- *The overall structure of our prevention programming districtwide; and*
- *Programs and/or personnel (e.g. behavioral specialist) for students with extreme behavior issues.*

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mental Health Committee will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school media center."