



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2023

12:00 p.m. – In Person Meeting

Committee members present: Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase, Dr. Alvin McDaniel, Dr. Roger Bloom, Robert Stein, Doric Capsis, Todd Goodwin, Michael Hardy, Elaine Lovell, Patrick McGovern, Christine Miller, Kerri O'Donnell, Andrea Ramos, Karen Suarez, Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams, Giuseppe Alviano

Committee members not present: Richard Canalini, Racheal Castillo, Angela Diglio, Dana Docar, Eleanor Dougherty, Grace Machinski, Laura Penfold

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The Health and Wellness Committee meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. Robert Stein, Assistant Business Administrator for Operations, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. Dr. Alvin McDaniel, the District's new Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, introduced himself to the committee. Each committee member then introduced themselves to all attendees.

1. **SEL** (Social Emotional Learning) - Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams introduced herself to the committee and gave a brief synopsis of her professional background and an overview of SEL. She discussed the monthly hashtag #Togetherness and explained how the district can incorporate the theme and SEL into its daily activities.

2. **Water Fountains** - Michael Hardy explained that the remaining water fountains that have been purchased will be installed shortly between now and next week as follows: HS 2, MS 7, Park 2, Dryden 2, Powells 1 and Drexel 1. The fountains are all bottle fillers with filtered water and cooling stations. We will reach out to the Principals regarding replacement water bottles.

3. **COVID-19 Ventilation Updates** – Robert Stein provided the committee with an update on the COVID-19 ventilation projects. Park, Drexel and Dryden updates were completed in November 2022. Powells updates were done in November 2022. Additional renovations at Powells were done in 2023. MS renovations are substantially complete. HS renovations are 100% complete. There are remaining punch lists for both the MS and HS.

4. **Aramark Report** – Kerri O'Donnell provided the committee with an update on the latest Aramark personnel changes. The District has a new Food Service Director, Christine Miller, who replaced Gary O'Grady in that position, who will be serving the District in that capacity. Aramark will now be providing Boar's Head cold cuts. They will be meeting with students in each of the schools and forming a Nutrition Committee to discuss students' needs and wants for future food menu items.

5. **Questions from Committee** – Questions were presented by Elaine Lovell regarding the proceeds received by the District for vending machine purchases. She also inquired as to the job functions of the new Head Chef. The Head Chef will be working with the food services team to review recipes, make sure recipe ingredients are ordered, helping schools prepare recipes and other food services related tasks. Ms. Lovell also asked if we could bring back a “Vegetable Day”.

6. **Food Service Comments** – Mike Hardy asked if we could incorporate Boar’s Head soups into the menus. Karen Suarez expressed concerns regarding students’ food allergies. Dr. Tahira DuPree Chase confirmed that the District is a “nut free” school district. Currently, there is no District Policy that bans students from bringing in foods that may contain allergy related ingredients.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** January 18, 2024 – Zaino Conference Room

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott on behalf of Dr. Alvin McDaniel