

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Health & Wellness Subcommittee was held in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Reynolds Administration Building, on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Chairperson Karen Cabral called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30.

Present:

Committee Members: Karen Cabral, Chairperson, Carly Reich, Sarah Bullard, Thomas (TJ) Del Santo, District Physical Education Department Head; Nancy Roberts, Nutritionist for Chartwells; Melissa Goldstein, Bristol Health Equity Zone; Kimberley Orr, Alternate member from Chartwells; Denise Rochefort, Alternate District Nurse Representative

School Committee Members and Administrators: Ana C. Riley, Superintendent; Brenna Toland, Director of Student Support Services

Guests: Jon Lawson, Mt. Hope High School Physical Education Teacher

I. DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Welcome

Chairperson Cabral welcomed the members to the meeting.

B. Approval of the June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2021; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. RFPs for District Doctor and District Dentist

Ms. Toland introduced herself as the Director of Student Support Services and introduced the RFPs for District Dentist and District Physician. She explained that the RFP for a District Dentist was overdue and that there were no dental screenings done since 2020, except for RIDOH screenings at Colt Andrews and Hugh Cole Elementary Schools because they are Title I schools.

Ms. Toland added that the District has a physician that has been in place providing services, but that there is no formal contract with him.

Ms. Toland pointed out new language in the Physician's contract regarding the BWEA Sick Pool Committee and attendance at sporting events.

Mr. DelSanto had a few comments/questions:

- He asked why the Wellness Committee is being asked to review the bids.
- He also pointed out that the District Physician has not served on the BWEA Sick Pool (Bank) before.
- He explained that a Trainer is usually at football games, sometimes with a physician, but is not sure if the physician is the District's doctor.

Ms. Reich asked for an explanation of the Sick Pool. Mr. DelSanto explained that the Sick Pool is for catastrophic illness when employees need more days than allowed in their contract. Employees donate a day of their Sick time to the Sick Pool for use by employees who need the extra sick days.

Ms. Bullard asked why a physician would need to be on the Sick Pool Committee. Mr. DelSanto stated that typically, the doctor is not on the committee.

Superintendent Riley explained that by regulation, a doctor needs to be present at football games and hockey games. She stated that the current doctor goes to the games and that she hopes to retain the same doctor.

Superintendent Riley responded to the questions about the Sick Pool, stating that she will follow up and that if there is no need to have the District Physician on the Sick Pool Committee, she will pull that bullet from the RFP.

In response to Mr. DelSanto's question on why the RFPs were brought to the Wellness Committee, Superintendent Riley explained that she likes to bring anything that is related to the health and safety to the Health and Wellness Committee.

C. Covid Updates

Superintendent Riley provided an update on Covid:

- Masks are no longer required
- All Executive Orders on quarantine are gone. She is planning a meeting with the District nurses to plan how to deal with families that have been exposed to the virus.

- The District still has enough COVID test kits and will be sending them out with students before the April break so students can test themselves before returning to school.
- She summarized that as long as a child is not sick, they can come to school.
- There will be no more contact tracing.
- Re: Testing, she stated that positive tests are still being reported and tracked through the portal.

Ms Cabral asked about immunization rates. Superintendent Riley explained that there is not much incentive for parents to vaccinate their children because they are no longer being quarantined if they are exposed to the virus but not vaccinated. Superintendent Riley stated that the District is still holding clinics at Hugh Cole. The immunization rates by school are:

Mt. Hope High School	70%
Kickemuit Middle School	60%
Hugh Cole Elementary	44%
Colt Andrews Elementary	45%
Reynolds Elementary	63%
Guiteras Elementary	57%

There were five (5) new cases in the district in the past two weeks, including teachers and students.

E. Report out from District Staff on Recent Training Regarding Standards/Skills-based Health Education

Mr. Lawson reported on his attendance at a recent training regarding Standards/Skill-based Health Education. He explained that every school in the District, except Guiteras, was represented. He stated that there was not much new to learn, but that the training did reinforce some of the lessons that can be done, providing a deeper look at the National Education Health Skills standards and their application to the K-12 curriculum. He stated that the goal of the standards is to provide students with what they need to know to live healthy lifestyles when they graduate. He provided the committee with the example of how to access health resources. The training provided sample, skill-based lessons and resources on how to access health resources.

Mr. DelSanto asked if these resources are available to be added to the K-12 curriculum. Mr. Lawson responded that these resources are available on line, but that they are too cumbersome to provide a hard copy.

Ms. Toland asked if the resources would be helpful to share as social resources when making referrals. Mr. DelSanto responded that they can be added.

Other Discussion:

Superintendent Riley explained that the next meeting Agenda will include an update on the school free/reduced lunch program, which is ending. She noted that the District will be setting up a campaign before the start of school in September to reinvigorate the program. She noted that the Budget has some funds for communication and that she plans to use some of them for this campaign.

Ms. Roberts added that Ms. Wetherill working in conjunction with RI Healthy Schools Coalition and the RI Department of Education will have something coming out in support of that campaign. Ms. Orr stated that lunch will not be free next year, starting with the summer school session. Families will need a heads-up to prepare.

Mr. DelSanto provided an announcement from Ms. Bratsos that the Family Resource Center (PAT and COZ) will be holding a family event about quick and healthy family meals, hosted by Heather Hetzler, URI Program Coordinator for USDA SNAP-Ed on May 24 at Colt Andrews and May 31 at Hugh Cole. She will be distributing a flier as soon as it's available.

Ms. Goldstein announced that the Bristol and Warren Health Equity Zones will be partnering with Thrive by 5 for a virtual workshop (via Zoom) on anxiety, *Supporting Our Children in These Anxious Times*, presented by Carolyn Souza, LICSW, from Bradley Hospital, on March 29, 6:30-8 PM.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Cabral adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

Karen Cabral-Chair
Bristol Warren School District
Health & Wellness Committee