



REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Health and Safety Committee (HSC) met on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 4:00 PM in the Rosa E. Blackwell Interactive Learning Center at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center, 2651 Burnet Avenue, 45219.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

ATTENDEES Virtual Attendees 7

Health and Safety Committee Members

Chairperson Mary Wineberg, Carolyn Jones, Kareem Moffett, Ph.D.

Administration/Staff

Tianay Amat, Interim Superintendent; Brook Beiting, Communications Crisis Manager; Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Shauna Murphy, Assistant Superintendent; Connie Solano, Interim Chief Operations Officer

CPS Government Liaisons

Eric Kearney, CEO, Kearney and Kearney

Community Member

Mary Maune, Program Administrator, Hamilton County Commission on Women and Girls

Menstrual Health

Mary Maune, Hamilton County Commission on Women and Girls (HCCWG), updated the Committee on the following information contained in her presentation.

Who is the Hamilton County Commission on Women and Girls

- In 2017, the commission was established “to dismantle barriers that give rise to gender-based inequities, to improve the economic position of all women in Hamilton County, to encourage the public recognition of the contributions of women to Hamilton County, and to develop and promote women in leadership positions throughout Hamilton County.”
- The Commission on Women and Girls consists of 20 women and 10 girls who are residents of Hamilton County and appointed by the county Board of Commissioners.

The Issue of Menstrual Equity and Period Poverty

- Period Poverty - the inability to access menstrual products
- Lack of access was exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic
- A quarter of all students (up from 1 in 5 in 2019) in the US now experience lack of access to menstrual products
- Lower income and students of color have been particularly affected. Students are deeply aware of the impact period stigma and lack of access to period products present and believe there needs to be more advocates for menstrual health and equity.
- Health and Hygiene - Menstruation is a biological norm.

Missed Class Time:

- A 2019 study found that more than four in five U.S. students have either missed class time, or know someone who has, because they did not have access to menstrual products.

Burden of Cost:

- Costs can total over \$6,000 and greater in a lifetime
- Difficult to quantify the cost of absenteeism, disruptions, and productivity loss.

Current HCCWG Findings: Menstrual Equity in Hamilton County

- ▶ Local organizations are working to address this issue:
- ▶ Tidal Babe (of Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank) provides period “kits”
- ▶ Girls Health Period –
- ▶ Already providing FREE products for distribution to 39 CPS
- ▶ 14 suburban and private schools from elementary to college
- ▶ Several area foster homes
- ▶ Over 100 schools outside of the TriState area.

Request of Health and Safety Committee of CPS Board

Ms. Maune is asking for the following:

1. That all CPS schools expand access to free period products within all girls, gender neutral, family and employee bathrooms at schools.
2. Expand Girls Health Periods footprint at all CPS schools beginning in the 2022–2023 school year.
3. Create a formal partnership with GHP to ensure a sustainable relationship and no disruption or gaps in service.

Ms. Maune reported that there would be no cost to provide the product to students and that funding is done through partnerships.

The District currently has a relationship with Proctor and Gamble for support of the District’s Girls Period program.

Ms. Maune reported that HCCWG has been in existence for five years and anticipates that it will be around for a while.

ACTION: The Administration will provide the Committee with information about the Girls Health Period program.

ACTION: The Administration will update the Committee about the amount of product that has been provided to schools, and if training has been provided on how to use the products.

Governmental Liaison Report on Particular and Immediate Legislative Topics

George Glover, Focused Capital Solutions; Eric Kearney, Kearney and Kearney

Mr. Kearney updated the Committee on the following *Of Note* items contained in the April 25, 2022, Monthly Report.

Of Note

- Meeting with Board Members re: Government Relations Work
- Redistricting Fight Continues
- Ohio House Bill 626 debate
- 125 Education Bills this GA

State Superintendent Search

Before starting its first round of interviews with prospects for the state superintendent position, the State Board of Education (SBOE) decided Monday it will call a second round of interviews with finalists who can garner sufficient support from board members. The board rearranged and shortened its typical agenda for its April meeting to allow it to spend substantial time in closed-door executive session for interviews with seven previously announced candidates. Those candidates are former SBOE Vice President Steve Dackin; Perrysburg Schools Superintendent Thomas Hosler; Finn Laursen, former executive director of Christian Educators Association International; Carrollton Schools Superintendent David Quattrochi; Kimberly Richey, a former U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights official; Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent of Pennsauken Schools in New Jersey; and Springboro Schools Superintendent Larry Hook.

State School Board

State Board of Education (SBOE) President Charlotte McGuire announced Tuesday new committee assignments in response to the resignation of former Vice President Steve Dackin, who is now a candidate to become state superintendent. Brandon Kern will chair the Legislative Committee. Kern, a gubernatorial appointee to the board, is senior director of state and national policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau. Tim Miller, elected member for District 7, becomes vice chair on the Emerging Issues and Operational Standards Committee. He owns an insurance agency and previously served on the Akron Public Schools Board of Education. McGuire also appointed members Brendan Shea, elected member for District 10, and Walt Davis, a gubernatorial appointee, as chair and vice chair of a workgroup on financial literacy standards. Shea is a financial adviser. In addition, McGuire appointed member Kirsten Hill, elected member for of 14 District 2, to serve on the Budget Committee, a move requested by Mike Toal, chair of the committee.

Charter School Creation and Expansion Limits

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine is standing with nearly two dozen other governors in fighting against a proposed federal rule limiting charter school creation. The new rule would be a change to the U.S. Department of Education Charter School Program, and would require charters to prove that a school district they want to join is “over-enrolled” and in need of a new school.

H.B. 616 Debate

***H.B. 616 (Loychik, Schmidt)** The bill proposes:

* Prohibits public schools and nonpublic schools that enroll students who are participating in state scholarship programs from teaching or providing training that promotes or endorses divisive or inherently racist concepts.

* Specifies that “divisive or inherently racist concepts” include (1) critical race theory, (2) intersectional theory, (3) the “1619 Project,” (4) diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes, (5) inherited racial guilt, and (6) any other concept that the State Board of Education defines as divisive or inherently racist.

* Prohibits school district boards of education from selecting any textbook, instructional material, or academic curriculum that promotes divisive or inherently racist concepts.

* Prohibits the State Board from adopting any standards, model curricula, professional development resources, classroom resources, or assessments promoting divisive or inherent racist concepts.

* Prohibits public schools, nonpublic schools that enroll students who are participating in state scholarship programs, and any employee or other third party representing a school district or school from providing instruction or materials on sexual orientation or gender identity to (1) students in grades K-3 or (2) students in grades 4-12 that is not developmentally or age-appropriate.

* Requires the State Board to establish a procedure by which individuals may file complaints against a teacher, school, administrator, or school district superintendent alleging a violation of the bill’s prohibitions and to adopt rules to govern the implementation of and monitor compliance with the bill’s provisions.

Mr. Kearney updated the Committee on the following Bills:

***H.B. 117 (Brinkman)** To enact new section 3311.242, to repeal section 3311.242 of the Revised Code, and to repeal Sections 6, 7, and 8 of S.B. 89 of the 133rd General Assembly regarding school district territory transfers and to declare an emergency. Last Hearing 4/5/22.

ACTION: The Bill permits homeowners to appeal to take themselves out of the school district. The Committee recommended preparing a resolution opposing the Bill at an appropriate time.

*** S.B. 306 (Brenner)** Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish and administer a program to provide tutoring and remedial education services to students in participating public and chartered nonpublic schools. Specifies that a tutor under the program may be either a retired teacher or substitute teacher or an individual who meets eligibility standards adopted by the state Superintendent. *

H.B. 327 (Grendell, Fowler Arthur) To prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts.

ACTION: Mr. Kearney updated the Committee on the following Bill and will provide more information at a Student Achievement and District Instructional Performance Committee meeting. The Bill will also be discussed at a Health and Safety Committee meeting after SAC's update.

H.B. 105 (Lipps, Kelly) To age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention. Passed House in Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

A copy of the full report is available upon request and in the Board office.

Child Abuse Prevention

Carrie Bunger, Director of Positive School Culture and Safety, updated the Committee on the following information contained in her presentation.

She reported that child abuse is a serious topic that educators will have to address sometime during their careers. She stated that 5 to 25 percent of students experiencing some type of abuse or neglect each year, teachers are often the reporters of child abuse suspicions. The schools are sometimes in a position to identify and report the abuse.

Child abuse manifests in various behaviors.

Dr. Bunger's report included the following:

“Child abuse also manifests in various behaviors affecting a child, including neglect (neglect of physical, emotional or educational needs), verbal and emotional abuse (calling the child names or disparaging the child), physical abuse (including slapping, kicking and hitting that goes beyond normally accepted parameters of discipline), and sexual abuse (involving the abuser's sexual gratification gained as a result of contact).”

She informed the Committee about the Child Abuse and Treatment Act of 1974. This law mandates that school personnel and other professionals report child abuse.

Dr. Bunger also updated the Committee about the following topics contained in her report.

- National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Warning Signs
- Educators are Mandated Reporters

- Staff Training and Mandatory Reporting
- Prevention Efforts

A copy of the full report is available upon request and in the Board office.

ACTION: Committee Chair Wineberg advised the Administration to make employees aware that Child Prevention month occurs in the month April.

ACTION: The Committee advised the Administration to provide data about trends and patterns of child abuse, what particular group of students are being abused, and what supports are in place to help the abused child.

Proposed Code of Conduct 2022-2023

Assistant Superintendent Bunte updated the Committee on a draft of the Student Support Guide 2022-2023 Code of Conduct. She advised the Committee to review the document and submit recommended changes to her by May 2, 2022.

The document will then be submitted to the full Board by May 4, 2022 for their review and any recommended changes.

The full document will then once again go to the full Board to see everyone's changes by May 16, 2022.

The final document will be recommended to the Board for approval at the May 23, 2022 Regular Business meeting, via the Superintendent Recommendations.

Committee member Moffett suggested condensing the document into a link that can be sent out to students, and highlight a specific CODE on a monthly basis.

Other Business

Policy 9125 – Social Media for District Employees

Committee member Moffett advised the Administration to emphasize to students that there is a Social Media policy that must be followed and that it will be enforced when there is a violation.

Committee Chair Wineberg inquired about Google Chat being eliminated for younger children during the school day due to elementary students messaging throughout the day.

ACTION: Interim Superintendent Amat recommended that the Chief Information Officer do an update about Google Chat at the Health and Safety Committee meeting on May 23, 2022.

Hearing of the Public

The following virtual attendees provided the following comments.

Abria Drummonds – Disable Google Chat during the school day and after hours.

Lindsay Felder – Pleasant Ridge Montessori parent. Pedestrian safety concern around the school. Wants interventions to make the area better before start of next school year.

Leslie Mooney – Fairview parent. In favor of not allowing Google Chat during the school day.

David Woerner – Pleasant Ridge Montessori Traffic

Pedestrian Safety

Interim Chief Operations Officer Solano updated the Committee on their concerns about pedestrian safety around the schools.

Committee Chair Wineberg thanked outgoing Interim Superintendent Amat for the great work that she has done on the Health and Safety Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Health and Safety Committee

Mary Wineberg, Chair

Carolyn Jones

Kareem Moffett, Ph.D.

Staff Liaisons

Tianay Amat, Interim Superintendent

Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent

Connie Solano, Interim Chief Operations Officer