

Leighton Area School District
Advisory Council for Counseling and Careers
March 8, 2024

Attendees: Christina Fish, Mary Figura, Amanda Citro, Janine Partentio, Sandra Michalik, Girvin Janicki, Brandon Kwiateck, Mary Boaz, Sue Benczkowski, Samantha Elias, Carrie Kenny, Kelli Costenbader, Mary Jo Frehulfer, Suzanne Howland, Kathy Hoffman, Eric Christman, Janine Partenio, Deb Lindh, Kathleen Martin, Steve Ebbert

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Presentation - Mrs. Larissa Kimmel

Carbon Monroe Pike serves the community with their mental health needs and developmental delays by providing walk-in and call-in services and responding to referrals. They also provide mental health services with administration, targeted case management and forensic case management as well as specialty services (CHIPP, CASSP, CIT, housing, system of care). They connect with school districts through SAP. Mrs. Kimmel conducts trainings, networking and handle of care.

- III. Portrait of a Graduate (portrait of a learner, portrait of a student) - Dr. Christina Fish

Portrait of a Graduate brings stakeholders together to talk about what we can do as a community to prepare our students for life after they graduate high school as our students need to have certain skills to be successful. Dr. Fish is developing goals for the District's future and is working towards healing the community from past trauma. As the children are our future, one way we are doing this is by bringing the community together and talk about what is next and what they want our students to have when they graduate.

A video describing a Portrait of a Graduate was shared with the committee.

Dr. Fish reviewed how we create Portrait of a Graduate. The first step is to form a committee of business owners, community services, educators, parents and students, engage in discussion, brainstorm qualities and vet

skills and create a visual representation. Visual representation was shared with the community so that we can say this is what we are working towards (what our graduates will look like when they graduate).

The Chandler Unified School District has gone through this process and a video of their process was shared with the committee.

Ephrata Area School District formed a graduate program. Their process was very detailed and had three areas: knowledge, skills and dispositions.

A handout was shared and reviewed. Top skills were consistently communication and critical thinking.

Dr. Fish is hoping that the board will agree to this process. It is at a cost but is a worthwhile investment in our students' and community's future.

This program will also help elementary teachers see what are the foundation blocks that they are contributing to the graduate as they move through the education system.

Dr. Fish reviewed her timeline which is to bring a presentation to the Board's April workshop meeting and choose a company by the end of April in order to start the process in June.

IV. District Social Worker Overview - What do we do? - Mrs. Carrie Kenny & Mrs. Mary Jo Frehuelfer

Social workers are here to service, for social justice, dignity and worth of the person, integrity and competence. They aim to promote equitable education and opportunities to elevate students' mental, physical, emotional, and societal well-being by increasing resources, removing barriers, link between schools, homes, community and student outcomes and addressing numerous needs of the school community that may arise.

Some consistent things they do: tier 1, 2 and 3 interventions, provide students with emotional, behavioral support or social skills, coordinate school-wide presentations, mediate dialogue between students, family and/or school staff, suicide prevention, crisis intervention, threat assessment, provide supports for our homeless students. They also participate in a lot of school and community meetings (SAP, attendance, safety teams, etc.)

Mrs. Figura noted that in our new PCCD grant, a third social worker has been requested for the elementary center.

V. PAYS Survey Data - Mrs. Mary Figura

The results of the 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey were reviewed and shared with the committee. This data focused on student mental health, suicide, and self-harm.

Mrs. Figura noted that this survey is done every two years.

Mrs. Kathy Hoffman of St. Luke's noted that they have a walk-in facility for mental health.

Safe2Say was discussed. This platform allows students to report concerns and then the administration addresses the concern. This program is run by the District Attorney General's office.

VI. Community and Business Share/Open Floor

Mr. Girvin Janicki of Walmart reported that there are many opportunities available for individuals to enter the workforce so they have had to amp up their recruiting efforts.

Mrs. Kathy Hoffman of St. Lukes noted has been trying to do more with student engagements, volunteering and internships.

Dr. Fish spoke about our School Wide Positive Behavior program within the buildings.

VII. Next Meeting Date for 2024-2025

- Friday, October 4, 2024