

Lincoln Public Schools
Health and Wellness Committee
April 3, 2017

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Mary Anne Roll. Introductions were made.

Two Lincoln High School students spoke to the Committee about the interests of students at Lincoln High School who are part of the LGBTQ community.

Rhonda Sexton, Wellness Committee member and School Nurse at LHS, briefly updated the Committee on the activities at both LHS and LMS focusing on Adolescent Sexual Health that have been made possible over the past two years with a grant from the CDC/DASH and the RI Department of Education.

Mary Anne Roll indicated that the Lincoln School Committee would be considering a policy on Gender Identity using guidance issued by the RI Department of Education to guide the discussion. She would like to engage members of the Wellness Committee and others in the development of a draft document that would be presented to the School Committee's Policy Subcommittee for their consideration and discussion. The importance of developing protocols for policy implementation and ongoing professional development for all staff were also discussed. Anyone interested in participating in this ad hoc committee should contact the Superintendent. Mary Anne also asked the Principals for their help in recruiting parents to participate.

As one of the issues identified by the Mental Health Work Group, Reza Sarkarati, Principal at Saylesville Elementary School, reported on the results of a staff survey about "homework" at the elementary, middle and high school level. At the elementary level there are specific guidelines in the student handbook regarding homework. The same is not true at the middle school and high school. The members of the committee discussed the differences in the purpose and value of homework across grade levels as well as the impact on students and families. There was agreement that there would be value in developing some guidance around homework at the Middle School and High School and that more discussion was needed with staff at these schools.

Mary Anne noted that Andrew Viveiros was no longer Food Service Director as he had accepted the same position with Sodexo for the Providence Public Schools. The information regarding Table Hostings are still available. Patricia Wright, interim manager for Aramark, introduced herself indicating her interest in supporting the work of the Wellness Committee.

A high school student report on Later Start Time at LHS had to be moved to the next meeting due to a lack of time.

The next meeting of the Health & Wellness Committee is scheduled for May 18, 2017 @ 8 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.