

Family Life Advisory Committee (FLAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 9/26/24, 5:00-6:30 pm

1. Sign in and Introductions

- 1.1. **Attendance:** Kyle Blackburn, Lauren Eberle, Caitlin Edmondson, Kim Ellis, Kimberly Evans, Amy Gilford, Alan Grasley, Alyson Guerra, Kelly Guest, Shannon Hinkhaus, Kellie Hurst, Amanda Jozkowski, Christine Kolb, Colette Moorman, Vera Paylor, Kara Restivo, Lisa Rock, Tara Schoberg, Erin Sipes, Bryan Thompson, Chris Tobias, Bill Vandegrift, Steve Wernick
- 1.2. Members briefly introduced themselves to the group

2. Review Purpose and Instructions – Steve Wernick

- 2.1. Reviewed meeting norms – be prompt, limit sidebar conversations, follow Robert’s Rules of Order as much as possible, be professional and respectful at all times, and remain confidential
- 2.2. Reviewed FLAC guidelines handout
 - 2.2.1. Steve highlighted that appointments to FLAC are two-year terms.
 - 2.2.2. Vera Paylor asked for clarification on further time limits – a maximum of 3 terms, or 6 consecutive years, may be served.
 - 2.2.3. Committee members are asked to refrain from speaking in public as a representative of the committee as a whole.
 - 2.2.4. A quorum must be present in order to vote. Alan Grasley asked for clarification on the percentage needed – clarified by Steve to be over 50%. A quorum is present at today’s meeting.

3. Vote on Positions - Brian Thompson

- 3.1. Bryan Thompson opened the floor to nominations. Officer positions are held for one year.
- 3.2. Chair - Christine Kolb nominated Shannon Hinkhaus, unopposed, appointed
 - 3.2.1. Results: 16 – for, 2 – opposed, 2 – abstain
- 3.3. Vice Chair - Kelly Guest nominated Caitlin Edmondson, unopposed, appointed
 - 3.3.1. Results: 19 – for, 0 – opposed, 1 - abstain
- 3.4. Recording Secretary – 2 nominees: Amanda Jozkowski nominated herself, Kyle Blackburn nominated Colette Moorman
 - 3.4.1. Results for AJ: 3 – for, 9 – opposed, 8 – abstained
 - 3.4.2. Results for CM: 13 – for, 1 – opposed, 6 abstain, appointed

4. Review current parent notification percentages – Steve Wernick

- 4.1. 37% opt-out to CCPS Family Life curriculum
- 4.2. 36% chose MSDE Family Life curriculum
- 4.3. 6% opt-out from both Family Life curriculums
- 4.4. 22% have not responded

- 4.4.1. Steve noted that some parents provided feedback that they would not be responding because according to COMAR regulations, a non-response will default in the MSDE – they found the process redundant.
- 4.4.2. Steve shared that 3 contacts would continue to be attempted to make sure parents understood and received the communications.
- 4.4.3. Steve mentioned that it would be best if people would respond to lessen staff time devoted to this.
- 4.5. Question: Kimberly Evans asked why her husband was receiving Family Life emails, but she was not. Steve clarified that only the primary registered parent would receive emails and that tech services could adjust that designation so she would receive emails instead.
- 4.6. Question: it was asked at what age/grade do parents start receiving opt-out emails. Answer: all grades that have a Family Life component, meaning Pre-K through 12th.
- 4.7. Question: Kyle asked about the breakdown of parent notification responses based on grade-level. Steve reported:
 - 4.7.1. Elementary: 39% CCPS, 33% MSDE, 7% No Family Life, 21% No response
 - 4.7.2. Middle: 36% CCPS, 39% MSDE, 3% No Family Life, 22% No response
 - 4.7.3. High: 31% CCPS, 39% MSDE, 3% No Family Life, 27% No response
- 4.8. Bryan commented that non-response rates were lower than last year's approx. 30% non-response rate.
 - 4.8.1. Steve believed emails being sent earlier and separately from other notification emails may have resulted in the increase in responses.

5. Not on the Agenda: Chris Tobias is serving on the Standards & Frameworks Validation Committee (SFVC), a state committee that evaluates the state Health Education curriculum

- 5.1. Chris shared the committee hasn't been able to discuss the specifics of the Health curriculum, but hope to do so at their next meeting – including how well it aligns with COMAR.
- 5.2. Committee responsibilities include looking at resources and verifying their sources.
 - 5.2.1. Question: Shannon asked where she might be able to find resources used by this state committee. Chris suggested she reach out to the committee chair to see if he could provide the information she was seeking.
- 5.3. Examples of what the committee will discuss may be to analyze survey data about youth risk behaviors and evaluate how the curriculum addresses needs identified by said survey.
- 5.4. The goal is to evaluate how Maryland adheres to national standards in Health education.

6. Not on the Agenda: Training Feedback from Elementary Teachers – Chris Tobias

- 6.1. Chris reported that teachers were trained in the process of parental contact, opt-out processes, and the requirements of teachers to report back any feedback about the processes.
- 6.2. Chris shared future plans for teacher training in human trafficking identification and prevention.
 - 6.2.1. While not part of the Family Life framework or committee process, she felt it noteworthy to share.
 - 6.2.2. This will be part of the Safety and Violence Prevention framework in partnership with Care Healing (Amy clarified that this was formerly Rape Crisis Center).
- 6.3. Teachers were trained on what Family Life day will look like with splitting up CCPS and MSDE framework students.
 - 6.3.1. Each school has the autonomy to structure their approach differently depending on their availability of subs, numbers of students, etc.

7. Share/Vote on Proposed 6th Grade Boys and Girls Puberty Video

- 7.1. Bryan asked how many people were able to view the video from Proctor and Gamble, "Always Changing and Growing Up" – an overwhelming majority of people raised their hands in the affirmative.
- 7.2. Chris shared that because the video has a digital link, it can be shared with parents to preview – the existing video does not have that option.
- 7.3. Steve asked for feedback on if the video was acceptable and thoughts on how the video should be viewed, clarifying that the BOE would make final decisions accepting or rejecting.
 - 7.3.1. The video will not be used until the next school year after final approvals from BOE.
 - 7.3.2. Historically, 6th graders have been split into CCPS/MSDE groups, as well as boy/girl groups to view a puberty video.
 - 7.3.3. Christine asked for clarification on whether students who may identify as non-binary were able to choose which group of students they would watch with. Chris Tobias affirmed that yes, it was up to the parent to make that choice on behalf of their student.
 - 7.3.4. The consensus of many committee members was that boys and girls should be separate during viewing.
 - 7.3.5. There were questions about how the video differed from the 4th grade video reviewed at the last meeting. There was also discussion about what information has traditionally been presented to boys about girls and vice-versa.
 - 7.3.5.1. Differences were minor, but many members requested the links again for reviewing.
 - 7.3.5.2. Shannon asked if the committee could see what information boys and girls in 6th grade were traditionally taught about the opposite sex, for comparison.

7.3.5.3. ACTION: Chris will resend the 4th and 6th grade video links for members to review again as well as the slides that have been presented about the opposite sex in the past.

- 7.4. Question: Amanda asked why we were considering merging the girls and boys if 6th graders have historically been separate.
 - 7.4.1. Steve, Bill, and Chris said it was just something that had come up in the course of their conversations while preparing for the meeting, but that there was no real need to merge them.
 - 7.4.2. They were interested in the committee's opinions, but no plan to merge was being pursued. A change would need BOE approval.
- 7.5. Steve suggested we table the vote on the video itself to allow thoughtful consideration of our discussion, review the video again if necessary, and vote on it at the next meeting.
 - 7.5.1. Brian motioned to table the video vote until the next meeting. Alan seconded. Vote postponed.

8. Discuss Future Topics

- 8.1. Approve April and September meeting minutes
- 8.2. Kellie Hurst wanted to discuss the possibility of utilizing an asynchronous option for high school classes where CCPS and MSDE students would be in the same room during instruction time, but given different materials to access via Schoology.
- 8.3. Vote on the 6th grade puberty video, "Always Changing and Growing Up"
- 8.4. Shannon asked for additional teacher feedback, if available
- 8.5. Bryan asked for updated parent notification percentages at the next meeting.
- 8.6. Future FLAC meeting dates: 11/21/24, 2/6/25, 4/10/25
- 8.7. Alan motioned to adjourn. Kyle seconded. Meeting adjourned.