

**Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board
Okemos Public Schools
4406 N. Okemos Rd, Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board was called to order by President Martha Nokken at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Sondos Al-Hachim, Sabrina Avripas, Jessica Hamel, Courtney Isanhart, Stephanie Nawyn, Denise Nelson, Martha Nokken, Doris Pynnonen Hopkins, Kristin Rosenbrook, and Dorian Rotta.

Members Absent: Hannah Alstrom, Faith Crandell, Harshita Rajaram, Andre Ridley, and Sheree Jungwirth.

Administration: Stacy Bailey, Jill Dehlin, Katlyn Fleshner, Sara Roland, Lauren Schefke, Joseph Schmidt, and Lara Slee.

MOVED by Denise Nelson, SUPPORTED by Jessica Hamel, that the board approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2023.

AYE: 15 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 5 **MOTION CARRIED**

Bennett Woods Teacher Denise Nelson reported on behalf of the elementary buildings. The principals agree that it is most beneficial to teach reproductive health to students together in combined classes.

Assistant Principal Sara Roland reported on behalf of Kinawa 5/6 School. A small number of students have opted out of the reproductive health curriculum this school year. The curriculum is taught once each trimester for one week during physical education classes.

There is no report for Chippewa Middle School.

Assistant Principal Joseph Schmidt reported on behalf of Okemos High School. Students are taught reproductive health curriculum all together in the same classroom at OHS. The physical education teachers have attended a few conferences on reproductive health recently as well.

Program Specialist Kristin Rosenbrook reported on behalf of Special Education. Four of the districts self-contained classroom teachers will be attending a training. Elementary teachers are teaching health and safety on a weekly basis until the full lessons begin in the spring.

During the meeting, the board watched the "Always Changing" video intended for 4th graders. Several concerns were raised regarding the video's content, such as references to consulting parents rather than a trusted adult, hair care discussions limited to certain hair types, and a lack of inclusivity and perpetuation of stereotypes. The video was noted to heavily emphasize heteronormativity. A board member proposed that to promote gender inclusivity, we should avoid gender-specific content in materials for students. It was recommended to explore inclusive resources and videos for transgender youth on www.amaze.org. Research indicates that an ideal video length is one minute per year of age. For instance, a suitable video for a 9-year-old would be around 9 minutes long. Jill Dehlin, the Reproductive Health Supervisor, suggested forming a sub-committee to evaluate new curriculum materials.

Approval of Minutes

School Reports

Old Business: 4th Grade Video – Always Changing

In 2024, the primary goal of the board will be to evaluate the high school curriculum. Currently, not all lessons are being utilized effectively and could benefit from additional skill-building components. Jill Dehlin has proposed forming a sub-committee to oversee this review, with members including Stephanie Nawyn, Dorian Rotta, and PE/Health Teachers at OHS.

Another goal for 2024 is to revisit the definition of “how babies are made”.

The next goal for 2024 will be to review the definition of ‘how babies are made’. Jill Dehlin has presented the proposed changes to the current definition to the board. You can find the original definition and the proposed updates at this link: [How Babies are Made Updates](#). To address this goal, Jill Dehlin also intends to establish a sub-committee consisting of members Jessica Hamel, Denise Nelson, and Lauren Schefke.

Furthermore, in 2024, there is a goal to develop new resources specifically for 4th grade teachers. Jill Dehlin plans to create a sub-committee for this purpose, including members Jessica Hamel, Denise Nelson, Lauren Schefke and Sondos Al-Hachim.

Lastly, the 2024 agenda includes a review of special education curriculum. A sub-committee will be formed for this task and will include members Kristin Rosenbrook plus additional special education teachers (TBD).

Member Sabrina Avripas volunteered to be placed on a sub-committee of the board’s choosing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

New Business:
Goals for 2024

Adjournment