

## **Social-Emotional Wellness & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 10, 2025, 5:00 pm**

**GMTCC – Office Conference Room**

Attending: Jeff Hunsberger, Nancy Guyette, Denise Webster, Paula Beattie, David Manning

Meeting called to order @ 5:10m.

Agenda approved.

Celebrations/Positive Outcomes/Strengths to Be Acknowledged: Girls Varsity Basketball going to state, finals are Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of the playoffs. Jam Tones just returned from Ireland Trip. They did two performances, which were streamed live, very successful. Ellie Neckers just returned from working with Becca Balint in D.C.

Inquiry as to the Student Climate @ High/Middle/Elementary/GMTCC schools: Denise and Jeff both spoke to Beth Anne privately. She stated that students are asking about opportunities to attend/present at a board meeting, stated she will discuss it with them for a future meeting. Jeff will follow-up with her. Discussion on what we are hearing, positive or negative. No one hearing anything locally, other than questions at town meetings re: state/federal changes and how it will affect the schools and towns.

Faculty and Staff Climate at all schools: Dave stated that in Johnson parents seem to be nicer than earlier, and other parents are stepping up to create positive atmosphere. Patrick Murphy from Up For Learning is working with secondary school and possibly some elementary schools. Johnson Youth Climate surveys (run by Johnson) had a very small percentage of negative responses. The SRO's are very popular in the schools, and getting a lot of positive feedback. The VT DOE informed the schools not to change DEI practices, trans kids remain on teams and can use whatever bathroom they feel safe in.

Any Celebrations or Needs/Problematic Issues in the Areas of Respectful Communication/Tolerance/Equality/Respect/Etc.: Need to get more info out to parents/community members of elementary school students about upcoming events going on in MS/HS, good opportunities for elementary students and others to see and support these events. Kids are saying negative things, for example re: trans kids, their excuse is "well the president says it..." VPA also continuing same as previously. Discussion re: videos left by Maria Davies on racial, sexual orientation, other differences, and having kids watch these as part of restorative practice when doing these negative behaviors.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:45 p.m.

## **Safety and Social Emotional Wellness Committee Roles and Responsibilities:**

1. School Safety Planning:
  - a. Review safety policies and protocols for the district, including emergency preparedness, crisis management, and campus security.
  - b. Monitor the implementation of safety measures and recommend improvements as needed.
2. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Integration:
  - a. Advocate for the integration of SEL programs into the school curriculum and culture.
  - b. Review SEL curricula and resources to promote students' emotional intelligence, resilience, and well-being.
3. Mental Health Services and Support:
  - a. Collaborate with the administration to ensure that mental health services are accessible to all students.
  - b. Recommend strategies for supporting student mental health, including counseling, peer support programs, and partnerships with community mental health organizations.
4. HHB Prevention and Intervention:
  - a. Oversee the development and implementation of anti-bullying policies and programs.
  - b. Ensure that the district has effective strategies in place for preventing and addressing bullying, harassment, and discrimination.
5. Staff and Student Wellness:
  - a. Promote wellness initiatives for both staff and students, including physical health, nutrition, and stress management programs.
  - b. Recommend policies and practices that support a healthy work-life balance for educators and a positive learning environment for students.
6. Community Engagement and Education:
  - a. Engage with families and the broader community to raise awareness about safety and wellness issues.
7. Policy Development and Compliance:
  - a. Ensure that district policies related to safety and wellness are up-to-date and compliant with state and federal regulations.
  - b. Monitor the implementation of these policies and recommend adjustments as needed.
8. Crisis Response and Trauma-Informed Practices:
  - a. Advocate for trauma-informed practices and support systems for students and staff who have experienced trauma.
  - b. Ensure that the district has a comprehensive crisis response plan in place, including support for affected students and families.