

WESTERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
23 Highland Avenue
Westerly, RI 02891
Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Meeting
February 11, 2025

4:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
L. Wycall called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present in addition to L. Wycall were A. Goethals, S. Morrone, K. Wagner, L. Cugini, J. Perrin, A. Gervasini, L. Wentworth and K. Wetherill.
2. Approval of Minutes from 12-10-24
J. Perrin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by L. Cugini. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment
None
4. Food Service Report
L. Wentworth discussed her efforts in promoting local foods, including applying for a milk grant to support this initiative. WHS is aiming to reduce packaged foods and offer more homemade options.
5. Student Report
None
6. Project AWARE Report
K. Wagner is working closely with WPS's Community Liaison M. Bussey to ensure we are reaching as many families as possible. K. Wagner also reported on trainings and professional development opportunities being offered to district staff.
7. WPS Green Team Report
S. Morrone informed the subcommittee that all schools are now using reusable trays instead of foam trays. He also mentioned that students from DCS and WHS visited RI Resource Recovery and that DCS students are creating a video to share what they learned, with the goal of implementing similar waste reduction practices at WHS.
8. Old Business
 - a. Health & Wellness Charter and Policy Review
Members reviewed policy changes and agreed to move the policy forward to School Committee for a first read on the March 5, 2025 agenda.
 - b. Health & Wellness Membership

The committee will maintain its current membership for the remainder of the year. A. Goethals will assume the role of Health & Wellness chair, with a potential update to the H&W charter to remove term limits for members wishing to remain on the committee.

- c. Mental Health Community Resources
S. Morrone shared a list of community resources with members.
K. Wagner will share additional resources with the subcommittee.

9. New Business

- a. Creative Arts Therapies
A. Goethals reviewed how creative art therapies positively impact students by enhancing social skills, fostering empathy, and building self-esteem and confidence.

10. Future Agenda Items

The subcommittee will continue to discuss community resources at the next meeting.

11. Other

K. Wetherill discussed educator wellness and health services PD.
J. Perrin shared that WHS is hosting their annual Health Fair on April 11, 2025.

12. Adjournment

L. Cugini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m., seconded by A. Gervasini. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Goethals
Health & Wellness Subcommittee Chair