

# Family Life Advisory Committee (FLAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 2/13/25, 5:00-6:30 pm

## 1. Sign in and Introductions

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

## 2. Approve November 2024 minutes – Shannon Hinkhaus

- 2.1. Motion to approve November minutes by Alan Grasley, seconded by Kelly Guest.
  - 2.1.1. APPROVED. Results: 14 for, 0 opposed.
- 2.2. Steve explained that the minutes are all posted on the CCPS website after they are approved if anyone wishes to review them.

## 3. Share Parent Notification Percentages – Steve Wernick

- 3.1. Steve shared the current percentages based on grade level:
  - 3.1.1. Elementary: 44% CCPS, 36% MSDE, 9% No Family Life, 11% No response
  - 3.1.2. Middle: 38% CCPS, 41% MSDE, 4% No Family Life, 17% No response
  - 3.1.3. High: 33% CCPS, 42% MSDE, 3% No Family Life, 22% No response
  - 3.1.4. Total: 40% CCPS, 39% MSDE, 6% No Family Life, 15% No response
- 3.2. Steve Whistler asked for clarification that “No response” students are defaulted into the MSDE curriculum, which Steve Wernick confirmed.
- 3.3. Alan Grasley asked if there was any feedback from parents on the form this year.
  - 3.3.1. Steve Wernick responded that Elementary parents were asking them specifically for advice where they should put their children. Steve reiterated they did not advise parents on which option to choose, but would give the parents the three options available, and always referred them back to the email.
  - 3.3.2. Steve noted there was parent concern that parents didn’t want their child to be isolated.
  - 3.3.3. Bill Vandegrift noted that some parents came in person and wanted to know exactly what was in each curriculum option.
  - 3.3.4. Chris noted that the emails only allow for one choice to be made, but parents who received the paper form were sometimes checking all of the boxes.

## 4. Review Paper Copy of the Parent Permissions – Shannon Hinkhaus

- 4.1. Bill reviewed that at the November meeting it was brought up that there was a motion to change the order of the curriculum options.
  - 4.1.1. At the November meeting it was determined that everyone would use the time until the February meeting to think about this and reserve any vote until then.
  - 4.1.2. Steve clarified that the motion was to vote on the three choices and what order they go in.
- 4.2. Paper form still causing confusion for some parents.

- 4.2.1. 2025-2026 School year will tack on 3 extra weeks to fill out the form electronically.
- 4.2.2. Steve explained the new verbiage will be added over the choices to read, "Please select only one option" in large bold font.
- 4.2.3. Steve informed the group that they do have a translator for families that need the options translated for them.
- 4.3. Greg Malveaux asked what the children that opt out completely learn about during this class.
  - 4.3.1. Chris answered that it depends on the school.
    - 4.3.1.1. Elementary – Goal setting lesson.
    - 4.3.1.2. Middle & High – Choice Board – activities that students can select from, either enrichment, related health topics, and related health skills.
- 4.4. Shannon pointed out that if the due date for the electronic form is extended 3 weeks, parents that choose not to make a selection will receive three extra weeks of email notifications for the 2025-2026 school year.
  - 4.4.1. Steve mentioned that hopefully this will alleviate teachers having to reach out via paper forms and phone calls, or at least decrease the load.
  - 4.4.2. When parents answer via email, the choice automatically saves to the student's profile, therefore it is quicker to collect data and report percentages for each option.

**5. Discuss and Vote on Changing Order of 3 Options on Parent Permission Form. (*Changes will not take place until 25/26 school year if voted upon*) – Shannon Hinkhaus**

- 5.1. Shannon noted that quorum was not met. Only 14 committee members in attendance.
- 5.2. Amanda Jozkowski moved to table the vote on the order of the three options until the next meeting.
- 5.3. Steve Whistler advised that if the next meeting does not reach quorum, the Board would appreciate a straw vote.
- 5.4. Steve Wernick reviewed the discussion from the November meeting, on whether the CCPS curriculum should be listed first or the MSDE curriculum listed first on the email and paper form.
  - 5.4.1. The Board makes the final decision, the FLAC committee just gives a recommendation.

**6. Share Updates from the MSDE Health Standards Framework Validation Committee (SFVC) – Shannon Hinkhaus**

- 6.1. Chris reported an update.
  - 6.1.1. No talk related to Family Life.
  - 6.1.2. Main focus is analyzing influences and valid information in personal communication and decision making.
- 6.2. Shannon asked about the minutes from the last SFVC meeting – Standards 2 and 3. Shannon commented that she didn't see anything that pertained to Family Life.
  - 6.2.1. Chris responded that currently the discussions are all skills based. Family Life lies under concepts which is Standard 1 and will be discussed last because it is a much larger document.

- 6.2.2. Bill informed the committee that the entire review process may take 12 to 18 months to complete. They are breaking it down into small chunks.
  - 6.2.2.1. Chris estimates that they will begin to review Standard 1 in April, but it depends how the review of Standard 2-5 goes.
  - 6.2.2.2. The goal is to have a recommendation by summer.
  - 6.2.2.3. These meetings occur every month with the possibility to meet more often if necessary.
  - 6.2.2.4. Chris estimates that if they stay on course, they should be able to give a recommendation by the end of June.
  - 6.2.2.5. Bill once the recommendation goes from the committee to MSDE, it then goes to public comment.
- 6.3. Question: Shannon asks if the executive order signed by the President to remove gender identity topics from health class plays any role in the discussions of SFVC?
  - 6.3.1. Chris answers that they follow the State guidelines and currently the State has not made any decision on the issue of the executive orders.
  - 6.3.2. Steve Wernick also commented, anything that comes down from an executive order all goes through MSDE first. The state provides the guidance, which then goes to Dr. McCabe, and to leadership where it is discussed at the Board level.
  - 6.3.3. Steve Whistler gives an explanation of the legalese.
    - 6.3.3.1. All executive orders fall under judicial review and are always subject to legal challenge.
    - 6.3.3.2. Maryland falls under the 4<sup>th</sup> US Circuit Court.
    - 6.3.3.3. Currently we must follow two key 4<sup>th</sup> US Circuit Court rulings.
    - 6.3.3.4. We are going to follow the law until we are directed otherwise.
- 6.4. Kelly Guest brings up HB161, that looks to remove parent choice regarding gender identity taught in schools.
  - 6.4.1. Steve Whistler comments that HB161 is currently pending. If there is no Federal or State law, we get to make decisions on a local level, but if there is a Federal or State law, we will react accordingly.
- 6.5. Amanda Jozkowski asks if the Board of Ed needs to know if we have any changes before their meeting in April.
  - 6.5.1. Steve Wernick answers that if there are changes, they will advise the Board in May.

## **7. Review / Discuss Health 2 Resources (Female Condom and Dental Dam) – Chris Tobias**

- 7.1. Chris updates the committee on the current resources for Female Condom and Dental Dam.
  - 7.1.1. Most other counties use diagrams to teach about the female

condom.

- 7.1.2. At this time, there are no updated resources that enhance what we are already doing for the female condom or dental dam for this committee to review.
- 7.1.3. Recently sat in for the Health 2 presentation and the students seemed to have a complete understanding of the female condom and dental dam with a picture or diagram as the resource.
- 7.1.4. No recommendation for any other instruction at this point that would be necessary unless this committee would like to pursue that.
- 7.1.5. Shannon clarifies this is just for the MSDE curriculum instruction.
- 7.1.6. Chris comments that the students found the differences interesting between the female condom and male condom.
- 7.1.7. Greg Malveaux asks for clarification in what further demonstration would be sought in terms of other resources.
- 7.1.8. Chris answers that we would not be able to use a model for this lesson. Some other counties and jurisdictions bring in an anatomy piece to place the item in to make sure they are using it correctly.
- 7.1.9. Chris currently doesn't recommend that an anatomy piece would be appropriate at this time. A diagram is sufficient for this lesson.
- 7.1.10. Currently there is a video demonstration of the male condom for the MSDE group for Health 2, which has been well received.
  - 7.1.10.1. Important takeaways from the male condom video demonstration, has been teaching students that condoms shouldn't be left in the car with fluctuating temperatures.
  - 7.1.10.2. The Health Department's help and the kit to show the students the items has been very helpful for their understanding of the items being discussed.
  - 7.1.10.3. Steve Wernick commented that Chris and Bill go into the classrooms and help teachers teach these lessons, so they can hear what students say during these lessons.
- 7.1.11. Kelly Guest asks why flavored condoms were used in the kits.
  - 7.1.11.1. Chris answered that the representative from the Health Department would not use flavored condoms in the future, and the only reason it was used was because the condom was close to the expiration date.
  - 7.1.11.2. When the kits were present at a FLAC meeting, there were flavored condoms included. The intent was not to highlight the fact that condoms can come in flavors.

**8. Discuss Suggestions for Future Topics – Shannon Hinkhaus**

- 8.1. Approve February meeting minutes.
- 8.2. Chris would like us to address health curriculum for alternative students.
  - 8.2.1. Spoken to the State to find resources for teaching Family Life to our populations that need significant modifications.
  - 8.2.2. Currently waiting for new resources that the Special Olympics will be providing to the public.
  - 8.2.3. Bill explains that this would be an Alternate Health class.
    - 8.2.3.1. Normally these students audit the current Health class.
    - 8.2.3.2. Having an Alternate Health class with the proper modifications would allow these students to take the class for more realistic understanding.
- 8.3. Chris will bring the Standard Binders that are available for parents who have questions about the lessons in each curriculum to the April meeting.
- 8.4. Question: Are SSA's allowed to attend a Health Special with the students they work with?
- 8.5. Discussion about how tedious it is for teachers having to make 3 contacts before defaulting a student to the MSDE curriculum.
  - 8.5.1. Ideas for decreasing this load on our teachers.
  - 8.5.2. Different requirements for reaching out to Elementary, Middle and High School parents.
  - 8.5.3. Steve or Chris to find out how often a parent contacted late in the enrollment period chooses to opt out of the MSDE curriculum.
- 8.6. Future FLAC meeting dates: 4/10/25
- 8.7. Alan motioned to adjourn. Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned.