

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

**Monday, April 14, 2025, 5:00 pm**

**GMTCC – Office Conference Room**

Attending: Jeff Hunsberger, Nancy Guyette, Denise Webster, Kyle Nuse, Mark Nielsen, Jan Sander (by phone)

Meeting called to order @ 5:03pm

Staff members were all attending another meeting, so agenda was amended to table Celebrations/Positive Outcomes/Strengths, Student Climate @ High/Middle/Elementary/GMTCC, and Faculty and Staff Climate at All Schools until next meeting.

No public at meeting, so no public comment.

Kyle welcomed to the committee; she inquired re: the Rules and Responsibilities of the committee. Discussed that our main objective is to assure that all students and staff have the best experience, regardless of race, gender, or immigration status. Also that we can have a unified front on the issues.

We also discussed that as a board and/or committee member we need to not respond individually to any attacks on the board or school, but to refer to the principals or superintendent.

Any Celebrations or Needs/Problematic Issues in the Areas of Respectful Communication/Tolerance/Equality/Respect/Etc:

Jeff discussed the Healthy Lamoille Valley RFP grant. They are working with Shannon from the Recovery Center and with Lamoille Health Partners to put together a pilot program. Step 1 will start here at the high school (similar to AlaTeen.) An MSW grad from LHP will facilitate, Jeff will be sending an employee from the Family Center to co-facilitate. It is a support group for drug and alcohol use to meet during the school day, to be referred by health individuals. Step 2 will be for young adults (18 to 24 or 25 year olds) to be held at the Recovery Center. The plan is to start a male group, add a female group later. Binary and non-binary can join whichever group they feel most comfortable with.

Celebrations include; Johnson received a literacy grant. The Middle School musical was one of the most attended! The High School Chorus went to a district competition. And there now is an SAP at the High School named Meg, paid for with a Healthy Vermont Valley grant.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:36 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.