

RICHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Health, Safety and Wellness Committee

Meeting Minutes

12.04.2025

Meeting Called to Order: 7:15 a.m. in the District Office Boardroom.

Members Present

- Amy Skare-Klecker (Central Education Center – Community Education)
- Craig Holje (Human Resources - Administration)
- Dan Kretsinger (Transportation Building - Facilities & Transportation)
- Ellen Bowden (District Office – Human Resources)
- Eric Carter (School Board Member)
- Faith Breeden (IEA - Health & Safety)
- Gabby House-Fitzgerald (Bloomington Public Health)
- Jennifer Krueger (District Office – SPED)
- Katie Shepard (Richfield Public Schools Parent)
- Michael Manning (District Office – Nutrition)
- Michelle Axell (District Office – Human Resources)
- Michelle Whiteside (District Office – Health Services)
- Peter Fitzpatrick (Centennial Elementary – Custodial)
- Steve Lichtenburg (SFM – Workers Comp)

Minutes

REVIEW STUDENT INCIDENT REPORTS

- Centennial – 0
- Central - 0
- RDLS – 0
- RHS – 0
- RMS – 3
- SCC – 0
- Sheridan - 1
- STEM – 1

WORKERS COMPENSATION UPDATE

- 9 medical only claims, no lost time claims, and 13 incident only injuries
- SFM provided de-escalation training for SPED staff and the department is looking to have this become an annual training
- SFM slip and trip signs have been posted throughout the district

WELLNESS UPDATE

- Nutrition Services Update
 - Kindergarten Kickoff
 - Planned for Saturday, December 6 to give out fruit to families of kindergarteners as a way to meet and connect with families
 - MN Local Thursday

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- Available for all elementary schools where local food vendors provide food to attendees
- First event went well and plan to have another one with pizza burgers from Ranchers Legacy
- Safe Routes to School Update
 - E-Bikes and E-Motos
 - Primer given to parents and caregivers regarding rules and age limits on use of E-Bikes and E-Motos as a means of transportation
 - Safe Routes Survey
 - The district took a survey regarding transportation to school and found that biking rates has increased 14% district wide and 44% in secondary schools.
- Wellness Committee Update
 - Human Resources has taken over the newsletter for benefits and wellness
 - Working on expanding other programs

HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

- Chemical Hygiene Inspections
 - Completed over MEA break to inspect the science classrooms and fume hoods to ensure compliance with fire marshal requirements. This is required for K12 schools with science laboratories on an annual basis.
 - There were no major findings. The only item to remediate is to remove some high hazard chemicals from the storage rooms.
- Hazardous Waste Reporting
 - All facilities that generate hazardous waste are required to report the amount they generate on an annual basis. Richfield Public Schools is required to report to Hennepin County by December 15 each year.
 - IEA will complete this reporting prior to Dan Kretsinger leaving the district.
- AWAIR Program Update
 - 20 reports have been submitted through the accident investigation and corrective action form.
 - There has been positive feedback regarding the program and investigation process
 - Employees like that there is an immediate discussion between them and the supervisors. This provides an immediate opportunity for support and reflection following the incident.
 - Allows for a review of students and their behavior support. This has been the case for 9 incidents since the start of the program
 - Encourages other departments to be notified and get involved regarding corrective action. There was one corrective action that required the involvement of the facilities team.
- Health & Safety Email Concerns & Safety Suggestion Form – 1 recent inquiry

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- Student journalist emailed about the cleanliness of schools versus grocery stores. IEA and Dan Kretsinger responded to the question as best as possible and did not receive a response back.
- The email address is health-safety@rpsmn.org.
- The suggestion form is located on the district website under the Facilities page.

FACILITIES UPDATE

- Snow Removal
 - The facilities team aims to mechanically remove snow as much as possible to reduce slippery conditions. Ice is removed by distributing salt.
 - Facilities staff are also extra diligent on mopping entry ways and ensuring walk off mats are dry during the winter.
- Transportation
 - A bus conduct process was introduced this school year for parents and students to review and sign off on. The bus conduct form summarizes the rules and expectations for students on the bus.
 - There have been positive results where student conduct reports from bus drivers has decreased significantly since the start of the school year.

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

- Escape the Vape
 - Challenge by MDH for students to spread awareness regarding the harms of vaping and tobacco use.
- Edina Public Health
 - Bloomington Public Health is partnering with Edina Public Health to support mental health and wellness outreach and programming.
- Food Pantries
 - City of Bloomington was able to provide funding to local food pantries during the government shutdown. These food pantries are still available for families to access now that the government has reopened.
- Parks and Recs
 - Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to make a nature guide for the area. Guides are available by contacting Gabby.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OPEN DISCUSSION

- None

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026