

Olentangy Well-Being and Mental Health Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026- 6:30-8:03pm

Olentangy Administrative Offices: Berlin Room

Members Present: Brandon Lester, Elizabeth Wallick, Allison Houle, Katherine Branson, Nancy Freese, Samantha Norman, Jessa Reed, Andrea Vescelius, Rachael Morocco, Peter Stern, Michelle Gordon, Felita Moran, Liz Poprocki, Joel Badanes, Sarah Rodriguez, Caryn Martinez, Andrew Warren, Jay Patton, Anuki Liyanage

1. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order

2. Call Role

A quorum was present.

3. Approval of November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved

4. Approval of January 2026 Meeting Agenda

Approved

5. Committee Updates

Dr. Branson shared that Olentangy Schools was recently featured in the newly released 2026 book, The Teens Are Not Alright: School and Classroom Practices to Support Student Well-Being, by Dr. Cathy Vatterott, Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The book highlights Olentangy’s ongoing commitment to parent education related to student mental health, prevention programming, and comprehensive efforts to support student wellness. The May 20th meeting is moving to May 13th due to Board of Education meetings and room availability. The committee's charter was due for review. Revisions and updates were made and approved by committee members. The committee welcomed a new member.

6. Feedback: Mental Health Services Brochure Update

Samantha Norman updated the group that committee feedback is being utilized to create new informational brochures related to mental health services. As part of the ongoing work with the Jed Foundation, the brochure is being developed to reflect domains rather than tiers of support.

7. Signs of Suicide Program & Screening Recommendations

The committee reviewed current practices for obtaining informed parental consent for the optional depression screener included in the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program. Members offered recommendations to strengthen communication with families of seventh and ninth grade students to improve understanding of the optional depression screener. Multiple points of entry for parent communication and education about the screener were discussed.

8. Parent Support and Discussion Groups

The group began discussing existing and needed opportunities to engage and support parents and caregivers. Members also discussed a current opportunity being offered at an elementary school related to the book “The Anxious Generation”.

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 18, 2026