

Olentangy Well-Being and Mental Health Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 6:00-7:55PM

Olentangy Administrative Offices: Berlin Room

Members Present: Brandon Lester, Allison Houle, Katherine Branson, Nancy Freese, Allisha Berendts, Samantha Norman, Allie Nicolay, Jessa Reed, Andrea Vescelius, Joel Badanes, Sarah Rodriguez, Caryn Martinez, Michelle Gordon, Felita Moran

1. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order

2. Call Role

A quorum was present.

3. Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Approved

4. Approval of May 2026 Meeting Agenda

Approved

5. Committee Updates

The committee reviewed student membership needs, as four student representatives will graduate in May. The Wellness Department will recruit new student members through an application process, with selections expected in mid-June. The committee also reviewed the May social media takeover and thanked student representatives for their contributions.

The Wellness Department shared information about the Handle with Care program, which will be implemented at the beginning of the next school year. The program strengthens communication between local first responders and schools to support trauma-sensitive responses for students affected by adverse experiences.

The committee discussed recent swatting incidents and the District's response, emphasizing the importance of continued wellness and safety support for students, staff, and families.

6. Parent Support/Discussion Groups

The committee reviewed materials provided by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) outlining the organization's approach to support groups. Discussion included the distinction between support groups and group therapy, a review of a sample support group agenda, facilitator training and oversight requirements, and safeguards related to crisis response and referrals for professional assistance.

The committee also reviewed the components of NAMI's parent and caregiver education programming. Members discussed potential opportunities for parent and caregiver education, as well as considerations

for implementing support groups. The committee will continue exploring these possibilities in future meetings.

7. Summer Meetings

The committee will not meet July 2026 or August 2026 and will reconvene in September 2026.

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 17, 2026