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DISTRICT WELLNESS & SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 21, 2026

Lisa Campbell, Assistant Superintendent — Lisa Campbell

Mark Melton, Executive Director — MARK MELTON

Eddie Wright, Executive Director

Josh Critchfield, Director of Transportation

TONY TOWERY
~~Scott~~ Ballard, Safety/Security Coordinator

Riley Thomas, Communications Coordinator — Riley Thomas

Katelyn Anderson, SBFS — KatelynAnderson

Amanda Baustert, SRE — Amanda Baustert

Kimberly Baxter, ECC — KBaxter

Angel Bryant, PHS

Jessica Cahill Hodges, Special Services — Jessica Cahill-Hodges

Brett Cannon, SRI — BRETT CANNON

Summer Cope, MSP — Summer Cope

Matt Francis, NW

Emily Little, PI — Emily Little

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Kaylyn Logan, SBFS

Stephanie Palen, Sodexo

Ciera Richardson, SRE

Amy Siefke, RN

Jessica Zeno, NW

Jason Booth, Parent

Jeremiah Lane, Parent

Jessica Patterson, Parent

Logan Thomas, Parent

Jody Yowell, Parent

Dwayne Johnson, Student

Sammie Mondt, Student

Laura Pope, Admin

Kaci Martin

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DISTRICT SAFE SCHOOLS & WELLNESS COMMITTEE
Minutes
October 21, 2026

Nutrition Environment Services

- Federal Funding: Committee members discussed funding reductions associated with the One Big Beautiful Bill and the resulting impact on students who may no longer qualify for free or reduced-price meals this year.
- Nutrition Standards: An additional reduction in sodium levels is expected next year.
- Bright Bites: Student focus groups have provided Sodexo with valuable feedback, allowing student voices to guide nutrition and menu changes. Hardboiled eggs were noted as a student favorite.
- Cafeteria Charges: Approximately $88,000 is currently owed in cafeteria charges. The committee emphasized that students should not be negatively impacted by unpaid balances, noting that this is an adult responsibility, not a student problem.

Physical Education/Activity

- Recess Requirements: Recent legislative changes added 20 minutes to recess. These additional minutes cannot count toward required instructional minutes.
- Stone Ridge Intermediate (SRI): The school received a $10,000 grant.

Health Education

HB 14844: Rain's Law

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- Fentanyl education will be provided to students in grades 5–12.
- Hope Is Alive! (HIA) has been engaged for consultation and programming. District staff have met with the team and attended assemblies, including programming at Edmond Memorial. Lessons will be tailored to grade levels.
- Piedmont High School Assembly: Rain's mother will provide closing remarks.
- Parent Night: Hope Is Alive! will host a Parent Night. Date to be determined.
- Hope Is Alive! also offers student groups and support groups for families and loved ones. The district will begin with the planned educational programming and evaluate future opportunities.

Social Emotional Climate

Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH)

- District-Wide Initiative: Staff shared highly positive feedback about CKH professional development, describing it as meaningful, relationship-focused and applicable to both new and veteran teachers.
- Participants reported feeling safe and comfortable being vulnerable, asking for help and affirming colleagues.
- The training has strengthened staff relationships and provided practical action steps to support a positive district culture.
- Implementation:
    - Classrooms are developing student-led social contracts outlining expectations for how students and teachers treat one another.
    - Students have responded positively to social contracts and classroom expectations.
    - CKH supports respectful classroom environments, classroom management and a family-like atmosphere.
- Ongoing Training: Members discussed how CKH differs from traditional content-focused professional development. The training encourages honest conversations, accountability and addressing behaviors through the concept of "calling out fouls."

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- The committee emphasized continued training to maintain momentum and strengthen relationships among staff and students.

Racism Concerns

- Staff Training: Shabrone Brookings provided training for head principals focused on micro-aggressions and how to address them.
- Intermediate School Support: Guidance counselors are providing targeted lessons on inappropriate language, why certain words should not be used and the impact those words can have.
- Committee Discussion:
    - Members discussed the need for a consistent, district-wide approach to addressing racial slurs and micro-aggressions.
    - A parent shared concerns about students feeling uncomfortable reporting incidents and noted that students may be hesitant to approach adults if they do not feel represented or understood.
    - It was shared that a student felt supported by peers, a teacher and the principal following an incident.
    - Members emphasized that students cannot focus on learning when they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Requests and Recommendations:
    - Develop district-wide training and common language for staff and families on addressing racial slurs and micro-aggressions.
    - Establish clear, consistent expectations and a universal approach to addressing incidents.
    - Consider classroom or school contracts that reinforce expectations for respectful language and behavior.
    - Explore options for STOPit reporting to provide direct communication with parents, in addition to staff.
    - Ensure counselors are available to support students and other involved parties as needed.

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Suicide Prevention

- Prevention and Response: The district utilizes counselor alerts, threat assessments and coordination with law enforcement and DHS, as appropriate.
- Available Support: Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and School-Based Family Specialists (SBFS) help support students and families.
- Community Resources: District LPCs can help bridge gaps in services while families work to establish care with an outside provider.
- Student Awareness: Members discussed how students often turn to friends before seeking adult help. Continued student education on suicide awareness and recognizing when to seek help was encouraged.
- Communication: Recent conversations have helped students better understand the seriousness of language and statements related to suicide prevention.
- Request: Promote the STOPit app as a resource for students concerned about a friend. Students can access STOPit through Clever.

Human Trafficking Prevention

- Education and Awareness: Required education focuses on student safety, particularly online. No increase in incidents has been identified locally, but prevention remains a priority.
- Committee Discussion: A parent shared concerns about online relationships involving individuals misrepresenting their age or using the term "boyfriend" to establish trust. Members emphasized recognizing warning signs and speaking up when something seems unsafe.
- Topics for continued education include dating safety, social media safety, drug education and healthy boundaries.
- Requests and Recommendations:
    - Develop an educational pamphlet outlining warning signs and appropriate language to help families identify potential trafficking concerns.
    - Explore educational resources and partnerships with The Dragonfly Home, Pivot and Sisu Youth Services.

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    - Consider installing informational bathroom signs similar to those used in airports.
- Follow-Up: Katelyn will connect with Mrs. Patterson regarding bathroom signage.

Physical Environment/Safety

Transportation

- Water Outage Response: Committee members recognized the transportation team for its response during the water outage, including support for a student at Piedmont High School.
- Fleet and Technology Updates:
    - Bus video systems are being updated, with a focus on older buses.
    - The district continues to add vehicles to its white fleet.
- Transportation Safety: Approximately 3,000 students ride district buses. Members discussed the importance of maintaining safe transportation systems while ensuring students feel safe.
- A statistic was shared indicating students are 70 times safer arriving at school by bus than by passenger car.
- A parent praised the district's initiative in caring for students, specifically recognizing bus driver training and the positive interactions students experience when boarding the bus.

School Resource Officers (SROs)

- Members received an update on the district's SRO team and its ongoing work to build relationships with students.
- Safety and Prevention: The district maintains an active safety plan supported by regular training, prevention and observation.
- Staff and students are encouraged to report anything that seems unusual or concerning.
- A student shared positive feedback about the SRO team, emphasizing the relationships built with students and feeling safe at the high school.

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Safety Drills

- Members discussed challenges identified during drills and the importance of continually evaluating and updating safety procedures.
- Identified Challenge: During an incident involving a student leaving the playground, the Rave app's geofencing feature did not activate because the student had moved off school property. A teacher was attempting to reach the student when the limitation was identified.
- The situation highlighted the need to review notification systems and procedures for situations occurring beyond school property.

Health Services

- No updates or discussion items recorded.

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

- Counseling Responsibilities: Members discussed shifting counselors' time toward more student-facing services and reducing administrative responsibilities.
- Members raised questions about who will assume administrative tasks as responsibilities shift.
- Counseling Goals: Goals have been established for a three-year period, with progress tracked over time.
- State Submission: The counseling plan is scheduled for submission to the state beginning in November.
- School-Based Family Specialists (SBFS):
    - Specialists are focusing on student attendance and identifying barriers to consistent attendance.

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    - Areas of concern may include transportation challenges, domestic violence and other family circumstances.
- Student Assistance Programs:
    - Backpack Program: 70 students served.
    - Sparky's: 121 students served.

Employee Wellness

- Community Care Employee Assistance Program: The committee requested that information about the employee assistance program be presented to staff.

Community Involvement

- No updates or discussion items recorded.

Family Engagement

- No updates or discussion items recorded.

Action Items / Follow-Up

- STOPit: Explore options for direct parent notifications and promote the app as a resource for students concerned about friends.
- Racism Prevention: Consider district-wide training and establish consistent language and expectations for addressing racial slurs and micro-aggressions.
- Human Trafficking Awareness: Explore educational pamphlets and resources through community partners.

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- Bathroom Signage: Katelyn will connect with the parent regarding informational bathroom signs.
- Employee Wellness: Resend Community Care Employee Assistance Program information to staff.
- Safety Procedures: Review Rave app geofencing limitations and related safety procedures.
- Parent Education: Determine a date for the Hope Is Alive! Parent Night.