Olentangy Well-Being and Mental Health Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 6:30-8:06PM

Olentangy Administrative Offices: Berlin Room

Members Present: Brandon Lester, Allison Houle, Katherine Branson, Nancy Freese, Samantha Norman, Allisha Berendts, Jessa Reed, Andrea Vescelius, Rachael Morocco, Peter Stern, Michelle Gordon, Felita Gordon, Liz Poprocki, Joel Badanes, Sarah Rodriguez, Caryn Martinez, Julia Hewitt, Anuki Liyanage

1. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order

2. Call Role

A quorum was present.

3. Approval of September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Approved

4. Approval of October 2026 Meeting Agenda

Approved

5. Historical Timeline of Committee Work

Dr. Branson presented an overview of the scope of the work of the committee, highlighted key areas of focus and actions informed by committee feedback, and shared examples of how the committee's input has helped shape district practices.

6. Review Charter/Meeting Expectations

The committee discussed member responsibilities, including bringing forward agenda items, topics, and issues for group discussion and the ability to invite stakeholders by coordinating with the committee chair and co-chair.

7. Hazing Topic Introduction

Mr. Stern introduced Dr. Michelle Blackley and Mrs. Greta Gnagy, who were invited to attend the meeting and listen to the committee's discussion. The group's conversation was guided by two questions designed to gather input from a diverse range of stakeholders. The first focused on how the District can help students, staff, and community members better understand the connection between hazing and mental health. The second explored how the District can foster shared responsibility for hazing prevention, including opportunities to strengthen prevention efforts, improve recognition of hazing, and encourage reporting. The discussion was intended to gather diverse perspectives to help inform the District's ongoing work in these areas.

8. Open Discussion

Members began identifying areas that they viewed as important to prevent hazing including training and education for students, parents, coaches, and administrators. The discussion highlighted several key areas for strengthening the District's approach to hazing prevention and fostering a positive school culture. Topics included establishing common language and shared expectations, providing intentional team-building opportunities for all students, promoting accountability, and increasing awareness of power dynamics. The group also emphasized the importance of fostering a sense of belonging, building trust among stakeholders, and empowering students to take

an active role in shaping a positive culture. Additional discussion focused on increasing transparency around processes, ensuring stakeholder feedback leads to meaningful action, and identifying ways students can contribute to creating and sustaining a culture of respect and inclusion. The group discussed how issues with reporting, culture building, and leadership show up not only in athletics but also in the other clubs, the workplace, and other groups.

9. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: November 18, 2026