

WESTERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Babcock Hall Room 111  
23 Highland Avenue  
Westerly, RI 02891

Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

4:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/2685761891>  
Meeting ID: 268 576 1891

Minutes

1. Call to Order  
D. Bowdy called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Present in addition to D. Bowdy were A. Storey, S. Ljungberg, C. Parise, C. Buxton, C. Santilli, M. Ogle, C. Speranza, J. Perrin, M. Chicas, T. Castagna, A. Iadevaia, M. Herard, K. Wetherill
2. Approval of Minutes from 6-16-20  
C. Santilli made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by C. Parise. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
3. Westerly Prevention and Wellness Partnership Update  
Ashley talked about recent conversations with Officer Alicchio regarding juvenile drug activity and a high number of cases pending on that and other issues. Hope Recovery Center is beginning a Probation & Parole program to support increased recreational adult drug use. Drug takeback day 10/24. Red Ribbon week is coming up; virtual activities can be found at: <https://www.redribbon.org/virtual-activities>.
4. New Business
  - a. Food Service Report - Distance Learning/Covid 19 Food Distribution  
  
M. Herard reported USDA issued a waiver that allows all meals to be free to all students until Dec 30<sup>th</sup> or when funding runs out.  
  
Grab and go locations have been added this year at both the high school and middle school to accommodate our distance learners. The grab and go locations are also available for any other children under the age of 18 that are not in school. Families can pick up meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Monday families can pick up 2 days of meals for Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday families pick up 2 meals for Wednesday and Thursday. Friday families pick up meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Families can choose to pick up for one day if that is all they need. Pick up is available from 11am-12pm.  
  
Students in school receive breakfast as they enter the school from a breakfast cart. Elementary schools have 2 carts placed by entrances. Middle school has 2 carts located in 2 hallways where all students walk through. High school students can pick up breakfast in the cafeteria, at a cart located on the second floor by the library or at the breakfast cart at Babcock Hall.

Lunches are all pre-packaged this year. Students at the elementary school have a choice of a hot meal or cold meal. Meals are delivered to the classroom. Middle school students have a choice of three hot meals or one cold meal. Students come down to the cafeteria to get their meals and eat in the classroom. High school students have a choice of three hot meals and one cold meal. Students come to the cafeteria to grab a meal and eat in the classroom. Lunches are being offered at Babcock Hall and they also received the three hot choices and one cold choice.

Summer meals program continues through the end of 2020, but it's very important that Free and Reduced applications are submitted so that we aren't left in a position of owing money.

b. Opening Schools update

A.Storey reported that all elementary schools are following DOH guidelines, 6 ft stickers on the floor, hand sanitizing stations and mask wearing reminders. Relationship building and safety routines were important in the first weeks of school. The testing platform for this school year was switched from NEWA to AimswebPlus because it is easier to administer in a distance learning environment. Start of school and transportation has gone fairly well. Along with the Superintendent and DOH, Nurses are addressing any probable cases that may come up. QR codes were given to families to complete attestation forms. All faculty and staff have been flexible and gone the extra mile during opening.

T.Castagna gave an overview of what the Student Assistance Counselor is doing this year. WHS is addressing the increase in substance abuse. Five areas of social emotional learning that they will be starting in the next couple of weeks were discussed.

5. Alicia spoke about the wide range of mental health services being offered to both students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social workers are interacting with students both individually and in group settings. Human Resources is assisting employees by providing information and guidance. The liaison for homeless students is ensuring connections. Our School Nurse Teachers are providing information and resources to students, families and staff. Many teachers have made home visits to their students.

6. Future Agenda Items

- a. T. Castagna talked about creating a sub committee to review the Suicide Prevention Program that she received from D. Bowdy.

7. Other

M. Ogle asked if there are any plans for intramural sports. Alicia will check with J. Vetelino and report back to Mike. School gardens Zoom meeting is on 11/10/2020 at 4:30. The Ruler Program by Dr. Mark Brackett is on 11/16/2020.

T. Castagna is attending a conference entitled "Permission To Feel for Adults: Healthy Emotion Regulation During Uncertain and Stressful Times" on 10/14/2020 and will report out at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

A.Storey made a motion to adjourn at 5:55 pm; seconded by S. Ljungberg. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Chiaradio Bowdy, Chair  
Health & Wellness Subcommittee