



## MINUTES

### Providence School Board Health and Wellness Committee Meeting

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-25 issued by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Providence School Board held this meeting remotely. A recording is available on the Providence School Board YouTube channel at [bit.ly/pvdschoolboard](https://bit.ly/pvdschoolboard)

June 24, 2020

#### CONVENE MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order - Committee Chair Diagneris Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

#### In Attendance:

Diagneris Garcia, Committee Chair  
Edda Carmadello, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction and Services  
Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator  
Sarah Dinklage, Executive Director, RI Student Assistance Services  
Dana Benton Johnson- Manager of Social Emotional Services, PPSD  
Thomas Thomaidis - Student Engagement, Sodexo  
Linda Grossi, HPE Teacher Gilbert Stuart/Physical Health Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Ellen Cynar, Office of Healthy Community  
Lisa Hoopis- Director of education, Sojourner House  
Paula Paolino- Registered Dietitian, URI SNAP-Ed  
Natalie Fleming, PPSD Project Aware Coordinator  
Lynne R. Conca, Operation Manage- Sodexo  
Lino Cambio- Supervisor Food Services, PPSD  
Karin Wetherill, Co-Director of the RI Healthy Schools Coalition  
Mark F. Jeffrey, Sodexo  
Elizabeth Goldberg, parent of PPSD student

#### CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve Agenda as presented  
**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda**  
**MSV – Cynar, Grossi (16-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes- November 13, 2019  
**A motion was made to approve the minutes**  
**MSV – Cynar, Grossi (16-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL UPDATES

4. Welcome and introduction

Chair Diagneris Garcia started with welcoming all attendees and introduced herself as the new Health and Wellness Committee Chair recently appointed by Board President Nick Hemond. Garcia expressed her appreciation to the former Chair, Bobby Gondola for his leadership role which led the most popular and dynamic committee. She also thanked her Board colleagues, the Superintendent, especially these health and wellness bodies who continued to support our students.

Chair Garcia talked about her background that she was born in Dominican Republic, migrated with her parent to Bronx, New York at a young age, then moved to Providence in 1980s. She attended Providence public schools and continued to Boston University. She serves on multiple boards and advisory councils in the Providence communities. Diagneris joined the Providence School Board in April 2016.

5. Comments from the Community/Guests

There was no comment from community or guests

6. School Health Needs Assessment

Cynar stated that the City Providence has called for a proposal for a consultant to conduct school health assessment. The bid was secured by Bakertilly; click [here](#) for its findings and Cynar's presentation.

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7. Social Emotional Subcommittee Update

Benton Johnson and Dinklage introduced themselves as Co-Chairs of the Social Emotional Subcommittee, and their work in the realm of social health services. Benton Johnson stated that she has starting to recruit more subcommittee members, come up with plan and to identify objectives to support the turnaround plan and school reentry plan.

Fleming introduced herself as a school psychologist, and that she has been working closely with Benton Johnson and Dinklage on behavioral health.

8. Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Update

Hoopis shared the accomplishments of the subcommittee and its next steps. She highlighted the accomplishments from the prior year, especially the health and wellness policy amendment. The subcommittee is looking to revise its goals to include sexual education. The subcommittee will review the State's standard, PPSD's standards and implementation and identify needs in relation to healthy relationships' work.

Carmadello mentioned that Donna O'Connor was part of the preliminary school health assessment, and suggested that the subcommittee reach out to O'Connor.

9. Physical Health & Nutrition Subcommittee Update

Sou, an interim co-chair of the subcommittee reported on new goals to improve school meals. A pilot program of alternative breakfast is underway.

With nutrition update, Conca stated that prior to Covid 19, Sodexo started an alternative breakfast with a classroom program at secondary level and planned to expand to PCTA and Gilbert Stuart. She noted that there is increased participation, and is looking forward to do more as soon school reopening begins.

Sou reported that the subcommittee is trying to identify and increase physical activity throughout schools, through movement or even fitness challenges offered to students at all grade levels. This includes increased support and work with community partners.

Paolino shared that she has been working with Sodexo and there were some positive changes on the March menu, including decreasing sugary, high fat, preservative breakfast items, and replacing with protein and fresh fruits. Paolino is looking forward to continuing this encouraging work with Sodexo when school is reopened.

Cambio updated on how school meal distribution is going at this pandemic time, and home delivery for those with challenges.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

10. Announcements

No further announcements

#### **ADJOURN**

11. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m.**

**MSV - Hoopis, Benton Johnson (16-0) MOTION APPROVED**