



MINUTES -DRAFT

Providence School Board Health & Wellness Committee Meeting

797 Westminster Street

Providence, RI 02903

January 22, 2020

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call Meeting to Order - Committee Chair Robert Gondola called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

In Attendance:

1. Robert Gondola, Committee Chair
2. Dr. Frances Gallo
3. Dr. Mark Santow, Board Member
4. Edda Carmadello, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction and Services
5. Dana Benton Johnson- Manager of Social Emotional Services, PPSD
6. Thomas Thomaidis - Student Engagement, Sodexo
7. Rachel Newman Greene, City of Providence Healthy Communities Office
8. Kelly DeAngelis, Sustainable Director, Sodexo
9. Lisa Hoopis- Director of Education, Sojourner House
10. Linda Grossi, HPE Teacher Gilbert Stuart/Physical Health Subcommittee Co-Chair
11. Ellen Cynar, Office of Healthy Communities Office
12. Manuel Loureiro Jr., PPSD literacy support
13. Karin Wetherill, Co-Director of the RI Healthy Schools Coalition
14. Paula Paolino- Registered Dietitian, URI SNAP-Ed
15. Kate Balestracci, URI SNAP-Ed
16. Kerilynn Viccione, PPSD Teacher
17. Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator
18. Natalie Fleming, PPSD Project Aware Coordinator

CONSENT AGENDA

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

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL UPDATES

3. Welcome and introductions
Chairman Gondola welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their presence.
4. Comments from the Community/Guests
Paolino stated that she frequently received complaints from elementary teachers and nurses concerned that breakfasts in classrooms are high in sugar, highly processed and lack of protein e.g. crackers. Paolino also mentioned that there are Federal Guidelines for Pre-school breakfast, and

what to serve students. She cited that PPSD's and Sodexo's wellness policy and its mission conflicts with what is being served at schools.

Viccione shared regarding the successful implementation of serving fresh fruits and vegetables at Asa Messer Elementary School, modeled after the SNAP program. In her findings, Viccione state that students gravitate to fresh food, and bright-colored food.

**A motion was made to refer the discussion relative to breakfast in the classroom to the next Physical Health & Nutrition Subcommittee meeting.
MSV – Cynar, Paolino (16-0) MOTION APPROVED**

Wetherill brought up that there may be a CDP data issue that can compromise meals in Providence schools.

Gondola referred topic on school meal and data to be discussed at the next meeting.

DeAngelis stated that school baked goods are conflicting with the wellness mission and needs to be address. She asked for a support from the district, administrators and teachers to address the issue.

Interim Superintendent Gallo and School Board Member Mark Santow entered the meeting.

5. Update from Chair

Gondola reflected on his ten years serving on the School Board, especially serving as the Health & Wellness Committee Chair in the past four years. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Providence community, and acknowledged the many health and wellness members who stepped up, took roles, and led as subcommittee co-chairs.

MEETING TOPICS

6. Gondola indicated that he would like to complete a few more tasks before his departure, including the appointment of subcommittee co-chairs. He has communicated with potential co-chairs and his decision will be updated soon. Students as subcommittee co-chairs also is encouraged. He reminded everyone that this body is mandated and the work must continue.

7. H&W metrics and reporting template

Newman-Greene informed the committee that after the last meeting, members agreed on what the metrics will be look like. They began the conversation about challenges and set priorities. There are more questions on how to engage students, how food services staff can better engage with students, and how Sodexo can continue to change their menu to meet the goal of increasing local produce. There is an ongoing dialogue with students and input from community.

Gondola thanked Newman Greene, and Sodexo for the report template. He asked that Seney Chang facilitate a meeting between him and Mark Jeffrey before he transitions out.

**A motion was made to approve the Food Services Metrics and Reporting document pending a final conversation with Sodexo later this week.
MSV – DeAngelis, Grossi (16-0) MOTION APPROVED**

8. Wellness Policy Amendment

The wellness Policy Amendment was presented by Sou.

A motion was made to approve an amendment to the read, "This includes access to information about where to find on- and off-site sexual and reproductive health services, and how to connect with counseling and local organizations that promote violence-free dating, delayed sexual

activity, and prevention of HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancies” and to strike language regarding free condoms that was in the draft amendment.

MSV – Wetherill, Grossi (16-0) MOTION APPROVED

Per Gondola, this policy will be submitted to the full School Board as amended.

9. Subcommittee Goals and Progress

Gondola reiterated the importance of creating and utilizing the dashboard to track the work of the subcommittee, and that he hopes to bring it back at the next H&W committee meeting for further discussion and vote, especially to share with the full School board.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. Social Emotional Subcommittee Update

Benton- Johnson updated on RIDE Hero Showcase—Teachers and TAs trained in mental health, looking to move beyond traditional school social workers and train other helpers.

11. Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Update

Referred to item number eight, the wellness policy amendment is the product of the Healthy Relationships which presented by Sou.

12. Physical Health & Nutrition Subcommittee Update

Grossi stated that the subcommittee met on November, 12, 2019 and has worked on three goals:

- Physical Activity- Increase the number of elementary schools participating in the Recess Rocks program. Donna O’Conner has shared the program with all Providence elementary schools.
- Extend the program to middle and high schools
- Nutrition – Had conversations about Breakfast in the Classroom

Subcommittee also worked on Report on Food Services Management Contract metrics and evaluative measures.

Wetherill shared the history of Recess Rocks and its program was initiated back in 2016.

Historically, Providence has 12 schools participating, and among the 88 schools in the state, Providence has the Super Stars School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. Announcements

Cynar stated that the City of Providence is priority \$2.5 million for green school yards for the next two years. She asked that if members know of schools that are interested to let her know.

She mentioned that the School-to-Farm planning is being completed, and that the Board of Contract and Supply approved a contract for pre-K to 12 School Needs Assessment consultant.

ADJOURN

14. Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM

MSV – Wetherill, Grossi (18-0) MOTION APPROVED.