



Health and Wellness  
Healthy Relationships Subcommittee

**The PPSD Healthy Relationships Subcommittee strives to help PPSD improve the health of students, deliver exemplary sexual health education, and raise awareness and understanding about inclusivity; positive, violence-free relationships; and safe, supportive environments for all students and staff.**

- The PPSD Healthy Relationships Subcommittee is one of the 3 subcommittees that comprise the district Health and Wellness Committee. All RI school districts are required by [RI state law \(16-21-28\)](#) to establish a district wellness committee as a subcommittee of the full school committee (school board).
- District wellness committees are chaired by a member of the full school committee and will make recommendations regarding the district's health curriculum and instruction, physical education curriculum and instruction, and nutrition and physical activity policies to decrease obesity and enhance the health and well-being of students and employees.

**PPSD Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Goals**

- 1) Define, communicate and build awareness about Healthy Relationships Subcommittee and the work the Subcommittee is involved with or promotes.
- 2) Increase the presence and engagement of stakeholders, including Health teachers, parents, families, students, and school/district administrators.

**MINUTES**

**Health and Wellness Healthy Relationships Subcommittee Meeting**

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-25 issued by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Providence School Board held this meeting remotely. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

**February 23, 2021**

**CONVENE MEETING**

1. Co-Chair Lisa Hoopis called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

Subcommittee Members Present:

Co-Chair Lisa Hoopis, Director of Community and Education Programs, Sojourner House

Co-Chair Penelope Pare, PPSD Out of District Social Worker

Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator

Carleen McCarthy, PPSD school Nurse

Karin Wetherill, RI Healthy Schools Coalition,  
Jillian Fain, City of Providence  
Yeimy Bakemor-Morel, Day One

#### **APPROVE AGENDA**

1. Approve Agenda as presented  
**A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented**  
**MSV – Pare, Wetherill (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **APPROVE MINUTES**

2. Approval of June Minutes – December 15, 2020  
**A motion was made to approve the minutes**  
**MSV – Wetherill, Pare (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

3. Welcome and introductions  
Co-Chairs welcomed the attendees who each introduced themselves.
4. February - Teen Dating Violence Awareness month  
Bakemor-Morel informed the group that Day One could do programs. Members discussed upcoming trainings regarding domestic violence, teen dating violence, and other events like Denim Day to call awareness to sexual assault.

Wetherill mentioned Safe Bae who we will invite to our next meeting. This program offers peer-to-peer support regarding topics such as dating violence and healthy relationships.

Discussion on the Health Curriculum for Providence, McCarthy said that it was too expensive to share and would get us the name of the curriculum. She believes that it was purchased within the last five years. Concerns were expressed about the need for an appropriate curriculum for differently abled and special needs students. McCarthy expressed concern that students in her school sit on the gym floor for health class.

5. Healthy Relationships updates  
Group repeated our goals to increase attendance of community partners and particularly to include youth/students. PPSD needs to provide the Healthy Schools Assessment to the appropriate staff. What are the needs of PE, Nurses and Health Teachers?

Letter to Donna O'Connor will be shared with committee members before it is sent to O'Connor. This formal request from the co-chairs will inform O'Connor of the subcommittee's interest in meeting with her to support PPSD with updating its curriculum.

#### **PLANNING**

6. New Business  
Sou to follow up on students having health class on the gym floor.

Letter to Donna O'Connor to be sent.

Wetherill asked for access to Google Docs Folder for previous minutes. Sou will follow up on this.

7. Announcements

Sou asked Fain what supports the City can offer. Fain responded that she is attending at the request of Ellen Cynar, former director of Providence's Healthy Communities Office, to offer any support needed, especially in regards to earmarked city funds for school health. Sou stated that conversations with district leaders have occurred but no decision has been made.

**ADJOURN**

8. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.**

**MSV – Sou, Bakemor-Morel (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**