



MINUTES -DRAFT

Health and Wellness Social Emotional Health 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.

March 11, 2021

CONVENE MEETING

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

In attendance:

Dana Benton-Johnson (Co-Chair)
Sarah Dinklage (Co-Chair)
Obed Papp
Melanie Nunez, Classical HS Senior
Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, RIDE
TyRell Stephens, School Board
Ashanti Gonzales, JSEC HS Junior
Gail Ahler, Empowerment Factory
Peter Chung, Young Voices
Beatrice Ake, Sojourner House
Lian Gonzales McGee
Karen Wetherill, RI Healthy Schools Coalition
Magda Pedraza
Camille Rodriguez, Blackstone Academy Charter Junior
Solight Sou, PPSD Wellness Coordinator

APPROVE AGENDA

2. Approve Agenda
**A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented
MSV- K. Weatherill, O. Papp (15-0) MOTION APPROVED**

APPROVE MINUTES

3. Approve Minutes – December 9, 2020
**A motion was made to approve the minutes
MSV- O. Papp, B. Ake (15-0) MOTION APPROVED**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

4. Welcome and introductions

Co-Chairs Dana Benton-Johnson and Sarah Dinklage welcomed the attendees who each introduced themselves.

5. Subcommittee Mission Statement

Benton-Johnson reviewed the mission and goals, of the SEH subcommittee and stated that “the Social Emotional Health Subcommittee is dedicated to supporting the development and sustainment of social and emotional health and wellbeing of Providence Public School students and families. The subcommittee believes that improved social and emotional health helps students achieve their academic and human potential. The subcommittee values and is committed to partnering with students, families, PPSD staff, community members, as well as local and state agencies. The subcommittee believes that collaboration can lead to increased awareness and access to opportunities and services that foster and support social and emotional health and wellbeing. The subcommittee upholds research findings that indicate social emotional development can be fostered across settings, including home, school and community. The subcommittee also recognizes the value of increasing opportunities for students to further develop the five core competencies of social emotional learning as identified by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL). The Rhode Island Department of Education and The Providence Public Schools endorse the five CASEL core competencies: Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Decision-Making Skills. The subcommittee believes that social emotional health and wellbeing are extremely instrumental to lifelong success. “

Subcommittee Goals

- Recruit
- Reconvene
- Rebrand
- Reach

6. Updates

There were no new updates. Benton-Johnson reported the district continues to build out the social emotional toolkit and resources for parents.

PRESENTATIONS

7. Young Voices: Presented by Peter Chung, and students, Ashanti Gonzales, Camille Rodriguez and Melanie Nunez.

Peter Chung, Executive Director and three students presented on the work of Young Voices. Young Voices is the only state-wide organization that gives low-income youth the tools to have a voice, to master the skills needed to understand an issue, think strategically, speak out articulately and persuasively and assume leadership roles. The youth shared their experiences of finding their voice and advocating for change. The students described the various programs within Young Voices including 1) the LTA Leadership Academy where students learn how to

use their voice; 2) Girl Power which is about “driving change for us by us”; 3) The Community Improvement Project Class, a course completely taught by students.

8. The Empowerment Factory

Gail Ahler, Founder, Artist and Educator presented on the work of the Empowerment Factory, a non-profit dedicated to giving youth the skills needed to lead happier, healthier and more empowered lives through after-school and summertime learning programs as well as community and school special events and activities.

The slide deck for her presentation can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Njyf1f6p5gEjMhjP0hPBkNLCq7KT6ZN/view?usp=sharing>

PLANNING

9. New Business

There no new business

10. Announcements

Rosemary Reilly-Chammat announced RIDE has been working with the [Yale Center on Emotional Intelligence](#) on a free course to support SEL within the broader RI education community. RIDE would like to offer some additional complementary supports to RI school districts. Specifically, RIDE would like to make the [Yale SEL Leadership Institute](#) and [RULER program](#) training available to every district in RI that is interested in it. RIDE has Opioid Stewardship funds that would support these PD offerings in districts across the State. These are funds that the pharmaceutical industry paid to the State to address their role in the opioid crisis. The Leadership Institute is 12 hours, usually held over 4 days for 3 hours per session. The Leadership Institute helps prepare school leaders for successful implementation of the RULER program. The RULER program is a school wide curriculum to support SEL. There is additional information in the links above.

RIDE collaborated with the RI School Superintendent's Association on a survey to gauge interest in these offering. If you are interested in these offerings, please ask Dr. Peters to complete the survey or email Rosemary directly. To date, Providence has not expressed interest.

ADJOURN

11. Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

MSV- S. Dinklage, T. Stephens (15-0) MOTION APPROVED.