

Providence School Board
Health & Wellness Committee Meeting
797 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 (5:30pm)
Minutes

Convene Meeting

1. Call to Order- Committee Chair Night Jean Muhingabo called the meeting to order at 5:39pm

Toni Akin was in attendance

Toni Akin moved, Seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo

Carolina Roberts-Santana was absent

In Attendance: Kate Balestracci- URI Snap Ed, Alex Grey-Sodexo, Julie Lombardi- PPSD, Sandra Stuart-PPSD, Natalie Fleming- PPSD, Gina Silva-PPSD, Aleia Gardner-Dayone, Jack Rugley-Parent, Kelly Deangelis- Sodexo, Nduwumwami Francois- Camp RYSE/RYPM, Rosemary Reilly-Chammat-RIDE, Terri Gregg-RISAS, Benjamin Ndayishimye-Dorcus Place, Gloria Bergmans- Dorcus Place

Approve the Agenda

2. Approve Agenda

Recommendation: Recommendation to approve

Toni Akin moved, seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo (2-0)

Consent Agenda

3. Approval of Consent Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Agenda –March 22, 2023

Recommendation: Recommendation to approve

Toni Akin moved, seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo (2-0)

Announcements

5. Welcome

Camp RYSE(Refugee Youth Solidarity through Education)

RYPM (Refugee Youth Power Movement) Nduwumwami Francois, Director- Spoke in reference to 2 programs that he oversees. Camp RYSW caters to the refugee community of children who are in elementary and high school, it is a one month program in the summer where they are taught reading, writing, mathematics and throughout the day they are served breakfast, lunch and recess. Field trips provided to the students who have never been or heard of such as the Aquariums, local parks and water parks. Celebrations held on the last day of the program; each class prepares a song and a dance or even videos of them acting. It is a place where all friends and family come together and see how much fun they all had together. Refugee Youth Power Movement caters to the Refugee youth who are entering into high school, college; they receive help transitioning into adulthood, help find a job, college navigation and maintaining their well-being physically and mentally. This program runs for two weeks in the summer months and participants receive a stipend for coming those two weeks. The program(s) are open to any collaborations and any other advice that would be helpful.

Dorcus Place International Mentorship Program Gloria Bergmans, Youth Base Manager with Dorcas Place. She handles the middle school afterschool program at Gilbert Stuart Middle School for Refugee and Newcomer Immigrant Teams. This program started in January, meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool from three to five. This program offers academic support as well as some social emotional learning and they always end the program with playing soccer. After being in school all day the students tend to have a lot of energy and playing soccer with them transcends culture and language that bonds students together. Each week is broken down into a different theme; different things discussed like healthy relationships with self and family. Peer discuss healthy coping mechanisms of living in the present, being mindful, meditation and looking forward to the future. Night Jean Muhingabo came to speak with group and shared his experience as to what it was like as a refugee and how he was able to overcome some adversities so that students can be inspired by his story to think bigger. A therapy dog and a music therapist has also come to talk about different ways that they could cope whether it be petting a dog or listening to music. In the upcoming weeks, a representative is coming from the Wolverine Group, which is the theater group that will be doing drama therapy. They focus on having a broad spectrum of activities for the students to identify on how to help cope once they start talking about the migration stories during these drama workshops. Students would be able to act out the events that took place to get them to America will be therapeutic for them. Ms. Bergman wanted to be able to expose them to a lot of different therapies and different social emotional learning opportunities to help them thrive while also adapting to the United States. She also provided handouts with the curriculum listing the goals and objectives from the program. One goal would be to strengthen their academic capacity with every day of 30 minutes of homework time, 30 minutes of social emotional learning. This program is to empower them by promoting positive, social emotional programming, referrals, resources and case management. Ms. Bergman spoke on what her priorities were for next year; build on the current afterschool programming by capturing the refugee and newcomer youth during their academic school day, create partnerships with different schools that have high populations of refugees or newcomer immigrants, expand the program to another middle school and high school. Dorcus Place International Mentorship Program Benjamin Ndayishimye, Central High School graduate is currently where the high school program is located. He supports the students that have a hard time responding and talking to school counselors. Toni Akin and committee members asked questions in regards to the program(s) and service(s) that provided at both locations. Sandra Stuart explained how those schools were chosen.

Reports

6. Health Curriculum Revision Update (Elementary)

Julie Lombardi, PPST Staff (Executive Director of student support) is going to be taking over as Sandra Stuart is going to be stepping down next school year. Sandra Stuart is giving updates and reports on the Health Curriculum Revision Update (Elementary) K-5 Quarter 1 First half personal health (Health and physical activity) *Ready Set Grow *Personal health Quarter 2 Introduction to overall wellness (Sexuality and family life; social health) *Mental and emotional health Quarter 3 *Healthy lifestyles (Nutrition on education) *Environmental health (Recycling) *Substance abuse on alcohol and tobacco Quarter 4 Personal safety *Injury prevention *Consumer health

7. Health Curriculum Revision Update (Secondary)

Sandra Stuart is giving the updates and report(s) on the Health Curriculum Revision Update (Secondary) Additional services have been added since the last year; the addition of *Suicide prevention *Social media and cyberbullying *Healthy relationships with teenage dating violence *Student vaping/Dangers of vaping *Injury prevention (Hands on CPR training) New unit in grades 9 and 10 (Bruno act) *Sexual Orientation unit added to grades 9,10 and 11(already exist in grade12) *Vaping Grade 12 goals have added and or changed *Suicide prevention *CPR has been changed to hands only Toni Akin, Night Jean and various committee members had questions and comments for Sandra Stuart

Presentations

8. Social Emotional Learning & Mental Health Fall Semester Screener Report (BIMAS, YES, & SECA)

Natalie Fleming, Director of SEL, mental health presented and answered questions from the committee. The presentation will be shared with the Parent University on 5/25 with the Family and Community Engagement office (FACE) This source of information is here to share a sense of redefining and measuring the success for students with social emotional and behavioral mental health. One of the biggest goals is to develop a comprehensive system that can help measure success and wellness of students. In order to obtain that goal is to use the social emotional learning standards. There are 5 standards that RIDE and Providence actually adopted in 2017 SEL: Social Emotional Learning Self-awareness Self-management Social awareness Relationship skills Decision- making skills

Adjourn

9. Adjourn Meeting- The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm by Committee Chair Night Jean Muhingabo
Toni Akin moved, Seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo (2-0)