



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 - DRAFT

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.

May 24, 2021

CONVENE MEETING

1. Co-chair Hoopis called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Penelope Pare, PPSD & Co-Chair

Lisa Hoopis, Sojourner House & Co-Chair

Solight Sou, PPSD

Tanya Gilbert, Healthy Communities Office

Karin Wetherill, RIHSC

Daiely Rodriguez, RIC

APPROVE AGENDA

2. Approve Agenda as presented
A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented
MSV – Pare, McCarthy (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

APPROVE MINUTES

3. Approval of June Minutes – March 16, 2021
A motion was made to approve the minutes
MSV – Wetherill, Pare (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

4. Welcome and introductions
Co-Chair Hoopis welcomed attendees and introductions were made. New members included Tanya Gilbert, Program Manager for the Partnership for Success grant with the Healthy Communities Office and Rhode Island College graduate Daiely Rodrigues, who majored in Community and Public Health Promotion with an interest in women's health. Gilbert will be working with youths ages 12-17 to prevent alcohol, nicotine, and tobacco use.
5. Subcommittee Goals and Mission Statement
Co-Chair Hoopis briefly discussed the subcommittee's mission and goals.
6. Healthy Relationships Update
Co-chair Hoopis announced that the subcommittee's big goal was to access the curriculum and provide recommendations as needed. A formal request was made to PPSD who promptly responded and made the health curriculum accessible to co-chair Hoopis. She will share out about 10 pages of the health curriculum to members of the subcommittee along with the scope and sequence. Members indicated in the chat that they would like to receive this information.

Wetherill clarified that the scope and sequence does not necessarily assess how well educators are teaching this content, nor does it assess their comfort level with the contents. Therefore, an additional assessment will be conducted in order to determine what areas of need.

Recently co-chairs Hoopis, Pare and member Wetherill were able to meet with Supervisor Donna O'Connor and her leadership team of school nurses and Health and Physical Education educators who were very helpful and receptive to this support. Hoopis indicated that a quick glance at the curriculum showed that teen pregnancy was not taught until eleventh grade and only confined to one class. A possible recommendation would be to introduce this earlier in secondary schools and to also cover the topic more than once.

Recommendations will be conducted through the RI Healthy Schools Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Assessment Tool for School Districts (ASH) which is derived from the CDC's School Health Index, a lengthy assessment with several modules. ASH has 5 areas to assess: Sexual Health Education, Access to Sexual Health Services, School Climate & School Connectedness, Family Engagement, and Community Involvement.

Wetherill shared that other districts allowed a group of district and school-based staff to assess during a Professional Development and PPSD is willing to schedule one when there is availability. A summer PD was recently postponed due to challenges throughout the District. Given the range of different content areas, it might also be necessary to pull in other district leaders for further input as needed.

ACTION ITEM: Hoopis will follow up with O'Connor to determine if ASH can be completed with her team of professionals or if the subcommittee will need to invite others throughout the district.

Efforts to make the health curriculum accessible and available online have resulted in Supervisor O'Connor submitting a request to the IT department. Due to many website updates, this has not been completed yet.

ACTION ITEM: Sou will follow up with an inquiry to Supervisor O'Connor or IT. Hoopis will share out portions of the health curriculum to members.

Hoopis followed up on a comment made during a previous meeting regarding students being taught health lessons on the gym floor. Sou responded that this is a school-specific issue that must be handled through the school leaders but that the committee will be glad to support any educators interested in finding classroom space.

Wetherill inquired if the committee was interested in spreading the word about SafeBae, a peer to peer education program raising awareness about sexual violence and the importance of consent that presented during the March meeting. With the support of the RI Department of Health, this will be a program that is being offered throughout the state. The committee would be happy to support and share out further to youth-based organizations in the area. Co-Chair Hoopis also was willing to share out with RIC Professor Dr. Cummings in the hopes of having older students serve as peer educators/mentors for SafeBae. Rodrigues also stated this should be offered as an opportunity for health and wellness majors. Gilbert was willing to support this as well since community engagement is within the scope of her work and grant requirement. She requested that a list of organizations be shared out and added to as needed. Sou inquired about the SafeBae timeline for RIDOH and Hoopis confirmed that the grant had been approved and this is all in the works.

ACTION ITEM: Members share out SafeBae program to youth-based organizations. Hoopis to share out to RIC. Gilbert to compile a list of youth-based organizations and contacts. Sou to inquire about SafeBae timeline with RIDOH to better coordinate efforts to engage youths.

Planning

7. Announcements

Hoopis announced that her schedule will be changing but she is still able to retain the third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. The subcommittee will not meet over the summer months but will reconvene in September and the work will continue through e-mail communication.

Adjourn Meeting

8. Meeting Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

MSV - Pare, Gilbert (6-0) MOTION APPROVED