

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 28, 2012

Type of Meeting: Work Session

Place of Meeting: Middle School Auditorium

Members Present: President Dennis Ryan
Vice President Roy Lester
Board Member Patrick E. Gallagher
Board Member Gina Guma
Board Member Darlene Tangney

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Vincent Butera, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum
and Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Arnold Epstein, Director, Athletics, Physical Ed & Health
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

Call to Order

I. Call to Order/Pledge/Opening Remarks

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM, led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance and congratulated the wrestling champions.

Work Session Topic:
Wellness & Nutrition

II. Work Session Topic: Wellness and Nutrition

Superintendent Weiss congratulated athletes; wished hockey club good luck at the state championships hosted at the Long Beach arena, and then introduced the presentation on the role of wellness in the district and wellness instruction. The role of the school is to educate the whole child K-12, and prepare all children for a lifetime of learning and healthy living into adulthood, social and emotional growth, and good nutrition.

Health & Wellness Presentation – Michael DeVito, Arnie Epstein, Vincent Butera

Highlights include: the Health and Wellness Triangle, the Path to Wellness “Educating the Whole Child,” NYS Learning Standards for Health, NYS Guidelines for Social and Emotional Development and Learning (SEDL), Wellness Assessment, Physical Nutrition Services, Physical Activity and Education, and Social/Emotional Learning. The presentation is on line and on file with the District Clerk.

Wellness and Nutrition Discussion

Wellness & Nutrition Discussion
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- Board Member Guma inquired about the cleaning of equipment, specifically wrestling mats; safety procedures (Cleveland), HS door issue. **Response:** Mr. Epstein explained that the district had invested in chemicals for mats; collective efforts of educating kids and parents; 2 year sprays; holistic approach to education, health and cleanliness. Mr. Weiss confirmed that procedures are in place at all buildings; preservation plan includes upgrades for doors for safety. Working on student awareness and making sharing information with adults socially acceptable behavior; interaction between teacher and students in classrooms is key issue. Mental health professionals are on staff. Security procedures for lockdowns and lockouts are in place. Mr. DeVito described the ability of the new management system to check backgrounds of visitors and installation of new lock devices funded through bond. HS door now locked and staffed.
- Board Member Gallagher mentioned that the district added many cameras at Lindell & HS; asked about new management system which creates photo ID. **Response:** Mr. DeVito discussed cameras at all elementary schools and MS in addition to over 100 cameras at HS.
- Board Member Tangney asked about parent background checks. **Response:** No custody issues but criminal issues.
- Vice President Lester asked for confirmation of 1 visit by each class per year for ice skating.
- President Ryan asked about the usage of the Purell dispensers; flu practice; cupcakes for birthday parties, the education of staff about food allergies; and recess, outdoor play standard practice. **Response:** Nursing staff, PTA, principals, all working on cleanliness, proper hand washing (warm water with soap – happy birthday 3 times and coughing habits-into elbow). Healthy snack ideas were shared with principals. Nursing staff works with food service workers and lunch aides; peanut-free tables in cafeteria, emergency cards shared with substitute teachers. Standard practice is 32 degrees and clear for outdoor play.
- Board Member Guma asked whether the bus drivers were trained for emergencies. **Response:** Annual training is mandated for health and safety issues.
- Vice President Lester asked for confirmation that most meals were going to free and reduced students. **Response:** This will be researched.
- Board Member Gallagher does not believe HALB students are outside when the weather is below 32 degrees. He asked about the success of the Nutrikids parent portal after 4 years, and asked about data; and an analysis on the hand sanitizers. **Response:** Mr. DeVito will request more accurate data. Staffing, food storage, fixed costs are high for food service program; tough to break even with healthy food.

Wellness and Nutrition Discussion (continued)

- President Ryan discussed his displeasure with the invasion of the coffee cups around children.
- Board Member Guma asked how we advertised for the Food Service Director and was told it was posted on a listserv and in Newsday. No NY Times.

III. Public Comment on the Work Session Topic

**Public Comment on Work Session
Topic – Wellness & Nutrition**

- Gerri Maquet – 523 State Street – great idea, but disappointed that parents were not invited to participate on the Social/Emotional Learning Committee, expressed concerns over placement of security guards at Lido/MS, especially at drop-off times, asked about placement of visitor management system at every school and whether nurses are trained with epi-pens. **Response:** Parent will be invited to join Social/Emotional Learning Committee; security guard positions were evaluated; Board members also expressed concerns over drop-off times; Pre-K is highly monitored, only 11 students not on buses. Next Health & Safety meeting is March 22nd.
- Maureen Vrona – 7 Oswego Avenue – asked for clarification on red meat, the absence of nutritional statistics on website, whether vending machines could be placed and better food served in the elementary schools, parental input on parent portal, payment for snacks, and noted that Mr. Epstein’s health curriculum teaches children well. **Response:** New Food Service Director will be better prepared to address nutrition and other district needs; vending machines will be installed in elementary schools, new snacks should be available, audit on food service was found nutritionally sound; fresh fruit slices were requested
- Rosa Maria Goeller – 242 E. Market St – asked about the profits from the vending machines, and voiced concerns about the parking lot, parents who are late and speeding, parking, and suggested the utilization of the parent link. **Response:** We recycle profits from machines.

IV. Board of Education Comments

**Board of Education
Comments**

There will be a Budget Presentation at the March 13th, 2012 Board of Education meeting at the Long Beach Public Library.

V. Vice President Lester called for a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 8:50 PM.

Motion by: Board Member Gallagher

Seconded by: Vice President Lester

Approved: 5-0

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by:

Carole Butler, District Clerk

March 13, 2012