



Health and Wellness Subcommittee

Remote

June 15, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

Open Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill (Chair), Karen Dempsey, Adam Freudberg, William LaBarge

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Judith Styer, Director of Health and Wellness, Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant to School Committee

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being held remotely, was being broadcast live on Facebook and was also being recorded.

Public Comment

No public comment

Discussion on attendance and engagement during remote learning

The Director of Health and Wellness Judith Styer said that she does not have data on attendance, but they are looking at the numbers that relate to engagement with senior leaders. She said that there is a concern about the level of engagement, there are a lot of reasons why students and families are not engaging during this time, and we need to reframe the way we are thinking about engagement while we are using a whole new platform. She said that some students are engaged with other things during this time such as working to help support their families or having to watch siblings. She said that she can share information from national groups such as Attendance Works on how to think about attendance differently and construct interventions while engaged with remote learning. Ms. Dempsey asked how Framingham is comparing with other communities. Ms. Styer said she does not know exactly, but think it probably does not look much different, as a common theme has been that families who are also working are struggling to be directly involved with engagement in school learning, and it is going to look different for families who can sit with students versus families who are working or having to take care of sick relative. Mr. LaBarge spoke about some of the things that are lost with remote learning, such as being able to redirect a student's attention or behaviors. Mr. Freudberg said data on engagement and attendance was also asked for in the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, and said that he would like the School Committee to be able to see that data as it will help with future planning as well as to learn about any inequities.

Student, teacher and staff survey overview (and results if available)

Ms. Styer said that this is the third year of using the Panorama Survey; the first year was to get a baseline, the second was this year, and the third year will be geared towards students, staff, and faculty about social emotional learning. She said that in the Fall they rolled out a social emotional program in elementary schools, and are hoping to see some impact from that. She said that this year's Panorama survey included items to gain feedback on remote learning and COVID-19 impacts, this survey went out last week, and will be open until June 24th. She said that a separate survey went out this weekend from the District to families in regards to their thoughts on sending students back to in person learning in the Fall. She said that they have decided to not continue with the Panorama survey next year as the budget doesn't allow for it, and we will not have the earmark from Senator Spilka that we had in the past to help with social emotional programs. Ms. Dempsey asked for information about the Panorama surveys, and spoke about how it will be great to see students' thoughts on what went well for remote learning and what they thought did not work for the future. Ms. Styer said that the survey goes out to students in grades 6-12, and parents and staff in grades K-12. She said the survey also asks about personal lives, such as food insecurity. She spoke about how there will be guidance coming from DESE that is likely to be pretty prescriptive, and how social distancing and transportation will be a huge undertaking, as well as needing to be ready to hit the ground running with supports for students and staff in terms of emotional and mental health.

Discussion: Future preparations specific to and mental health, social/ emotional needs, and summer opportunities

Ms. Dempsey asked about accommodating students who will be returning to school with increased anxiety, and resources for families in the beginning of the return. Ms. Styer said it will be major work and take time, and that experts have recommended putting curriculum on the back burner for five to six weeks to take the time to help students come back into an environment that will be pretty new to them with new protocols to follow for every piece of the day. She said that staff will also need support of structure and protocols, and there will need to be professional development on how to explain things to students. She said that tomorrow there is professional development for the administrative team to talk about re-entry into school buildings from a mental health perspective, and that that information can be shared with all School Committee members to join if they would like to. She said that they have also been working with a consultant, who helped with the PBIS framework, on developing some clearcut protocols to start to teach students, such as with entering the building and handwashing.

Gross Motor Opportunities

Mr. Freudberg said he would like to see an increase in time for being creative such as though play and a longer recess, realizing that this also involves collective bargaining and state guidance. Ms. Barnhill said that during this time learning is not the priority, and there is a need for time for social emotional opportunities and recess. She said that this has not only physiological benefits, but can also help mitigate stress and positively affect social emotional learning, as well as discipline issues go down and improvements in learning can be seen and felt. Ms. Styer said that summer programs are limited now, as many are not open or in person. She said that she has always promoted increasing recess time as it leads to better learning, but it is hard with competing goals to increase the performance of the district. She suggested that the Community Resource Development Department can give information on summer programs

as well as before and after school programs. Ms. Dempsey suggested that teachers incorporate movement and skits when teaching about social distancing. Mr. Freudberg suggested looking into any infrastructure or policy needs to be ready for summer programming and increased time outside, such as buying any equipment and materials needed before they are sold out.

Ms. Barnhill said that the subcommittee will look to meet again before school starts, possibly at the beginning of August.

Approval of Minutes: April 30, 2020

Motion: To approve the April 30, 2020 minutes.

Moved: Ms. Dempsey **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** 4-0-0
(Yes: Ms. Dempsey, Mr. Freudberg, Ms. Barnhill, Mr. LaBarge)

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn. **Moved:** Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Dempsey
Roll Call Vote: 4-0-0 (Yes: Ms. Dempsey, Mr. Freudberg, Ms. Barnhill, Mr. LaBarge)
Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Community Needs Family Survey

Staff Distance Learning Survey

Student Distance Learning Survey

Draft April 30, 2020 Minutes