

Colonial School District
District Operations
Safety and Wellness Committee
Meeting Minutes
3/9/11

Committee Chair Ms. Kelly Jowett called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM

Other Committee Members Present: Alan Tabachnick, Bernie Brady

Other Board Members Present: Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Mel Brodsky, Gary Johnson

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. Maryellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services; Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services; Tom Traister, District Safety Officer; Lieutenant Christopher Ward, Whitmarsh Township Police Department; Sergeant Fran Wheatley, Whitmarsh Township Police Department

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

The Committee reviewed a letter from the District solicitor regarding changes to the District's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local municipalities. The changes are the result of the enactment of act 104 of 2010. The new act amended various sections of the School Code, among them the Safe Schools Act and the MOU. The significant changes affecting Act #104 are:

- Increased procedures/contents for the annual "Safe Schools Report," including:
 - Less generic and more specific reporting of offenses;
 - Report must be submitted to local police department for approval prior to submission to PDE officials;
 - For each alleged event, the following must now be reported:
 - Student actor's race
 - If the student actor has an IEP, and if so, the disability.
- Changes to the "Memorandum of Understanding" between the school district and the local police department outlining specific protocols where the police will be notified for offenses occurring on school property.
- Criminal and Civil penalties for non-compliance.

Additionally, the District is required to convene an advisory committee of at least principals, security personnel, guidance counselors and special education administrators. The new requirements are to be in place by June 30, 2011.

Sergeant Wheatley provided an update on the grant sponsored by the State Farm Insurance Company. The grant, Project Ignition, in the amount of \$2,000, was awarded

to the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School and approved by the Board in January. The proceeds of the grant are being used to promote a campaign titled “DNT TXT N DRV,” the intent of which is to have students, parents and faculty pledge to not text while driving. Additionally, the development of a “DNT TXT N DRV” public service announcement to be utilized in Drivers Education classes and an assembly program utilizing texting while driving a car controlled by a simulator is part of the grant. On March 10, 2011 several PW students will be asked to text messages while inside the car simulator while being filmed by CITV. The film will then be shown to students at PW on March 21, 2011.

A copy of a “School Safety & Security Report” (audit) recently performed at the Plymouth Elementary School (PE) was provided for Committee review. The audit was performed without notice to anyone at PE on March 1, 2011. The purpose of the audit is to assess certain areas of the building and operation with a focus on safety and security. Areas reviewed include the outside grounds, the classrooms, custodial offices, boiler room and cafeteria. Overall the results of the audit were positive with a few areas needing some improvement. Mr. Yemm explained that corrective measures are determined for areas needing improvement and work orders are placed in the system to ensure that the work is completed in a timely manner and that there is proper documentation regarding the repairs. Mr. Traister pointed out that he performs the audits on each school two times per year and is very pleased that he is normally challenged by students, teachers and staff when on school grounds and when attempting to enter the schools.

Ms. McCoy provided information on two new items that are being test marketed for sale in our cafeterias. The items are smoothies and air-pop popcorn. The smoothies are being sold at the PW West café. The smoothies are made with the Vita-mix machine that was donated to the District by Whole Foods. They are made with ice and fresh or frozen fruits. The popcorn is made with hot air, using no oils or butter, and flavored with a seasoned topping. Both of the new items are in compliance with Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The preliminary indication is that both items are very popular with the students and teachers and if sales continue to remain strong both products will be offered at other schools. Information was also provided regarding the sale of products offered in the vending machines in several schools. In an effort to increase sales some of the products being sold are not in compliance with the District’s wellness policy. The policy provides that these products are not allowed to be sold during school hours. Mr. Yemm reported that the machines that contain these products are placed on timers that prohibit use during school hours, allowing sales in the evenings and weekends.

There being no further business before the committee, Ms. Jowett adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations