

Colonial School District
District Operations
Safety and Wellness Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/7/09

Committee Chair Ms. Lenora Bruno called the meeting to order at 8:18 AM

Other Committee Members Present: Sue Moore, Mitch Zimmer

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Tom Davis

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, Food Service Director; Paul Antal, District Safety Officer; Pam Schick, Parent; Michelle Wert, Parent

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Lori McCoy provided information regarding the District's efforts to address the needs of students with allergies to certain foods. Ms. McCoy provided that the District has already taken steps toward purchasing certain foods that contain labels that indicate the content of the food specific to allergy issues. The District is also exploring the purchase of foods that are allergen free. The concern with foods as related to allergies will be discussed by the Nutrition Committee.

Information was provided to the Committee regarding the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local law enforcement entities. Dr. Cotter has been working with the District Attorney of Montgomery County in finalizing a few outstanding issues with the MOU. The District Attorney's office has agreed to provide some written clarifications of the issues. Once the clarifications are received, and deemed acceptable, the District will move forward with obtaining the signatures of the local law enforcement entities. The District will then finalize the process by signing the agreements.

Information was provided about the request by the Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) for the District to become a Point of Dispensing (POD) site. The goal of the MCHD is to establish locations that can be used for dispensing of medicine or vaccines to large numbers of people during specific situations. The information provided was for consideration of two different processes; a walk-in site and a drive-thru site. The intent is to use our campus to serve the residents of Whitmarsh Township, Conshohocken Borough and Springfield Township. The dispensing of any/all medications and or vaccines is solely prophylactic in nature. All dispensing will be done when school is not in session. Mass communication of any event will be handled by MCHD. MCHD will ask for volunteers from CSD but participation is not mandatory. If CSD staff does volunteer all staff of CSD will be given preference in receiving

medications. MCHD has provided a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will protect CSD's interests. The MOA has been reviewed and all is acceptable with the exception of the need to provide clarification on one issue. Once the District receives clarification on the issue the agreement will be signed and returned to MCHD for their records.

Mr. Antal reported on a request from a parent to provide the District's position on requiring background checks for parent volunteers. The current process is for the principals to submit the names and addresses of their parent volunteers to the IT Department. The IT Department then performs background checks with the Lobbyguard system at the Colonial Elementary School. The results of the background checks are then provided to the Principals. Mr. Antal will explore different options for running background checks that may be more extensive than Lobbyguard and report on same at a future meeting.

Karen Berk provided details on the Districts initiative toward prevention of the H1N1 flu virus. A major focus has been placed on hand washing. Several schools have shown videos that instruct students about proper hand washing techniques. Hand sanitizers have been provided for every classroom in each of our schools. Additionally, students have been instructed on the proper way to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing.

A draft policy for behavior support was presented to the Committee for review. The policy provides written principles for the use of behavior supports and interventions for students with disabilities. The policy will be presented to the Board for a first read at a future Board meeting. If acceptable the policy will be presented to the Board again for a second read. If acceptable after the second read the policy will become an official CSD Board Policy and will be put into effect.

An update was provided on the traffic concerns at the Whitmarsh Elementary School. Several initiatives were put in place during the summer months in an effort to improve the flow of traffic and eliminate or minimize the congestion in the parking lot and entrance drive. The initiative included a revised schedule for specific classes that allows seven (7) buses to drop off students in the morning and pick-up students in the afternoon twenty (20) minutes ahead of the normal schedule. In addition, the students being picked up by parents are being released from the school seven (7) minutes earlier than last year and the bus riders are being released after the cars have cleared from the parking lot. The initiatives put in place resulted in a substantial improvement in clearing the congestion and improving traffic flow for the first month of school. The District will continue to monitor the situation throughout the year.

There being no further business before the committee, Mrs. Bruno adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations