

Suffolk Public Schools

Health Advisory Board

Location: College and Career Academy at Pruden

April 8, 2025

Minutes

1. Welcome

- The meeting began at 4:35pm. Those attending in-person: Dr. Carletta Artis, James Gunther, Lori Miller, Sara Williford. Those attending virtually: Shana Hollowell, Margaret Rankin, Christina Emerson.
- The minutes of the January 28, 2025, meeting were read. A move to approve the minutes was made by James Gunther and seconded by Lori Miller. All were in favor, none opposed.

2. Unfinished Business

a. Family Life Education

- SB 1066 and 2440 did not pass. No further action required at this time. For family life education, James reported that parents are notified 30 days prior to instruction. Dr. Artis stated that she was not notified as a KFMS parent and had heard of other parents who were not notified also. James took note of the concern.

3. New Business

- Since the start of the 24/25 school year we have had several members of SHAB who left. Tricia Kastalitz, representing Food and Nutrition Services, James Elza, student representative from KFHS, and Camille Hundley-Prince, School Epidemiologist for WTHD.
- Margaret Rankin expressed concern over the purpose of the committee. Raised concerns about the quality of food being served in the cafeteria as well as what is being served. (A FNS representative was not present at the meeting to address this concern.) Also concerned regarding the mental health of students and fundraisers. Stated for fundraising, students pay to sit wherever in the cafeteria, pay to wear a hoodie, pay for twin day. She is concerned this is a money grab at the expense of low income children and that fundraising is out of control. Dr. Artis addressed this by posing the position as what can we do to positively influence student mental health and well-being. She also asked if Ms. Rankin had addressed her concerns directly with the school, noting that in her own experience, she [Dr. Artis] had been able to have concerns addressed directly at her children's schools. Dr. Artis noted that she too came to the meeting for change as well and had enjoyed brainstorming on ways to address immunization concerns. She concluded by asking what is the plate that we want to carry?

4. Department Reports

a. Food and Nutrition Services

No report available (new hire)

b. Student Health Services

A brief department report was provided by Sara Williford.

- The Parents and Partners event hosted earlier this year was successful - both school departments and community resources were available for parents to access during the event.
- Immunization information and receipt of doses for the upcoming school year are going well. Schools are sending targeted notifications to parents via multiple formats.
- SB/HB regarding cardiac response teams for schools is being followed.
- Legislation regarding permission for students to self-carry seizure medications did pass. School boards would then have to adopt policy if they agreed for students to self-carry this medication (similar policy already exists for epi, albuterol, and diabetic supplies).

c. Employee Wellness/K-12 & P.E.

The following information was provided by James Gunther:

Family Life Bills

- SB 1066 and HB 2440 - Family life education both were not passed and ended.

Drivers Ed bill

- HB 2213 - which encourages school boards to provide behind-the-wheel driver training, was passed.
- FYI - VA HB 1124 was vetoed by the Governor and goes back for a vote.
 - Board of Education; driver education programs; computer-based driver education courses; requirements. Clarifies that the classroom training portion of the standardized program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles, established by the Board of Education pursuant to applicable law, may be administered in-person or online, except in the case of the parent/student driver education component of the classroom training portion administered in Planning District 8, which pursuant to applicable law must be administered in person. The bill contains technical amendments.
- Ericka's Lighthouse parent night was 3/25, and the lesson was taught to 8th and 10th graders the week of 3/31 - 4/3, with an extra day before the weekend to ensure students had an opportunity to discuss anything before a break.
- Little Feet Meet was on 4/2 with a great turnout. Over 250 students and 50 family units from across the division.
- Champions Together is tomorrow at KFHS - Unified Track and Field
- VA HB 1663 and 1104 - was approved by the Governor.
 - Summary Public schools; interscholastic sports and athletics; guidelines and policies on student-athlete extreme heat safety and protection; development and

implementation. Requires the Board of Education to develop, biennially review and update as necessary, and distribute to each local school division guidelines on policies relating to extreme heat safety and protection for student-athletes

- Active Learning Grant
 - ODU is the host University for the grant. Wwe had me and 2 other HPE teachers attend back in Dec. 7 teachers from pre-k - 2 attended the ODU training for teachers. The HPE team also did a PD for the remaining HPE elementary teachers in January and then for the 7 teachers who attended the training at ODU at the end of March. Teachers are now writing a lesson plan to incorporate active learning and will teach it after spring break. All documents will then go to ODU and we will have a celebration meeting sometime in May.
- **Staff wellness from Anne Mccoy**
 - April 15th last day for the physician form or lab corp to get a biometric done
 - All vouchers expire on May 2nd
 - The program finishes May 15th
 - All incentives are going out
 - Planning for open enrollment next year is starting. Still planning on special enrollment for bus and cafeteria workers

5. Closing Comments

Sara reminded committee members that the purpose of this committee was to make recommendations to the board, as needed, regarding such topics as Family Life Education, the Wellness Policy, etc.

Participants were thanked for their time and commitment to meeting the needs of Suffolk Public Schools students this year. Lori, as student representative and a graduating senior, was recognized and congratulated. She stated her plan is to attend Radford University this fall and start the Registered Dietician program.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.

6. Next meeting date(s):

(TBD - contingent upon board approval of committee members)