

**Suffolk Public Schools  
Health Advisory Board  
November 14, 2023**

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome and introductions**
  - The meeting commenced at 4:04pm.
  - In-person attendance: Luanne Dorsey, Dagny Aldrich, Tricia Kastelitz, Hermionne Johnson, Rodney Brown, Sara Williford.
  - Virtual Attendance: Lottie Holzendorf, Michele DeVinney Schmoll, Regina Tindal, Anne McCoy, Camille Hundley Prince, Mavis Penn.
  
2. **Charge and expectations of the School Health Advisory Board - Mr. Tyron Riddick, School Board Chair**
  - Mr. Riddick was unavailable for the meeting. The School Board Chair will provide the charge and expectations at the next SHAB meeting.
  
3. **Unfinished Business**
  - None reported
  
4. **New Business**
  - a. **An overview of student health in Virginia Public Schools - and within Suffolk Public Schools**
    - Sara shared information regarding the overall status of student health among Virginia's 132 Public School Divisions as of the 2022/2023 school year as well as within Suffolk Public Schools. In the area of Chronic Diseases - Asthma, the state level data pointed out school divisions with 750+ students with a diagnosis of asthma - Suffolk was captured on this list with 845. Diabetes, both Type 1 and Type 2, was also another point of interest in the state level data. Divisions with 50+ students diagnosed were listed - Suffolk had 55. Suffolk was not however on the list of school divisions with 500+ students diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy or divisions with 100+ students with a seizure disorder diagnosis. Other information shared included a state level overview of the number of specialized healthcare procedures, concussion screening/management, number of medications administered, and student health office encounters. In Suffolk Public Schools there were 69,470 clinic visits/encounters for the 2022/2023 school year - keeping in mind that the 22/23 enrollment for Suffolk Public Schools was 14,490. It was discussed that both health

promotion and prevention education as well as acute illness care were key to helping students stay in school and ready to learn.

During this time Ms. Johnson also pointed out the importance of recognizing rare diseases among school-aged children. She serves as an advocate and has many resources she can share.

## **5. Department Reports**

### **a. Food and Nutrition Services**

- Tricia Kastelitz mentioned that food security is always a concern, however especially so as the holidays approach. She was able to highlight and educate other board members on the program that allows all SPS students to eat for free in the school cafeterias.

- Tricia also shared exciting news regarding hydroponic gardens at all 3 high schools as well as CCAP. Currently they are growing lettuce and basil for use in the school cafeterias. She mentioned there is also a partnership with Wyndhaven Farms in Isle of Wight to provide ground beef at the high schools.

### **b. Student Health Services**

- Sara highlighted that while there were still some issues with students receiving grade specific required immunizations this year, timing and compliance seems to be improving. The multiple modes of communication used to inform families of requirements was also shared.

- The Suffolk Lions Club, in partnership with surrounding Lions Clubs will be assisting SPS nursing staff with completing yearly required vision and hearing screenings for K, 3rd, 7th, and 10th grade students. This is a current project and is expected to be completed by early February 2024.

### **c. Employee Wellness/K-12 Health & P.E.**

- Anne provided an overview of current employee wellness activities which include financial wellness, college loan counseling, full body scan/health screenings, the Traveling Y (YMCA), Jet Dental van, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center mammography van, SPS pharmacy (open house coming soon!). She also highlighted the upcoming staff professional development day on March 5, 2024 which will include wellness activities for all staff with a specific emphasis on custodial staff, bus drivers, and cafeteria staff.

- For K-12 Health & P.E., Anne gave an overview of the driver's ed program, safety lessons with middle school-aged students, and CPR training for 9th grade students.

## **6. Closing Comments**

**- Everyone was thanked for their time and participation in today's meeting. The proposed upcoming meeting dates listed below were accepted without concern from those in attendance at today's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.**

- 7. Next meeting dates (proposed & accepted):**
  - a. Tuesday, January 23, 2024 (inclement weather date of Thursday, January 25, 2024)**
  - b. Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

**Meetings are 4:00pm - 5:00pm at the College and Career Academy at Pruden unless otherwise noted.**