

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM and introductions were made.

Mrs. Roll asked for reports from each of the Work Groups:

I. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Leanne Saravo is leading the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Work Group. She reported that she had met with James Williamson, Dr. McNamara and Mrs. Roll to consider next steps in the District's ongoing work in this area. She provided information on the efforts at Central Elementary to address SEL in classrooms using the Second Step SEL curriculum. It was noted that the ELA curriculum at both the elementary schools and middle school have SEL core competencies embedded and, as a follow-up, the next step was to identify what was in place in the other three elementary schools in terms of supports and curriculum to support the development of SEL competencies. Mrs. Roll noted that the Vision of the Graduate work that the District sees as a PK -12 work has identified SEL Competencies as one of its Key Skills. The SEL Work Group will look at identifying SEL skills across grade levels at the Elementary Schools and the coordination of resources to support the work.

2. LHS Green Team (Recycling)

Matt Connors reported for the LHS Green Team. He indicated on the progress that had been made in the effort to introduce Share Tables in the LHS Cafeteria. Signage is being developed to provide students with information about the importance of reducing food waste and student volunteers have been recruited to sit at tables during lunch periods to talk about the way Share Tables can help reduce food waste. Next steps include a plan for continuing the effort in 2023-2024, and looking for opportunities to expand the idea of Share Tables at the elementary schools and middle school.

Karin Wetherill from the RIHSC mentioned that school-based recycling including food waste management is included on the agenda of the 2023 Compost Conference at RIC on March 8th. The RI Recycling Club will be presenting. Jim Corwin, their director, would be happy to speak with LHS efforts. On the issue of food waste in the cafeteria, Karin indicated that this is a widely recognized problem and offered that Student Advisory groups, working with Food Service Directors, could be involved in providing advice/feedback on meal offerings. Karin also provided an update on efforts to expand school meals to all (universal breakfast and lunch) through proposed legislation in the RI General Assembly.

The next meeting of the Wellness Committee will be May 24th at LHS.