

Lincoln Public Schools
Health and Wellness Committee
October 1, 2025
Lincoln High School Media Center

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM, and introductions were made.

Warren Heyman and Kendra Gay from the RI School Recycling Project provided an update on the efforts to provide any needed support for the recycling of food waste in the Elementary School Cafeterias as the new school year gets underway, as well as the extension of the program at Lincoln Middle School and Lincoln High School. Warren also gave an update on the progress being made across the state to meet state requirements for reducing food waste in schools, noting that High Schools are more challenging for a variety of reasons. The RI School Recycling Program will continue to provide support over the coming year as the program expands during the 2025-26 school year.

Karin Wetherill provided an update on the program for the Annual RI Healthy Schools Coalition's Annual Breakfast scheduled for October 16th at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

The keynote speaker's topic will focus on the importance of Health Education. In addition to the 300 attendees expected to attend, 50 exhibitors will be on hand to provide information and resources to educators in Rhode Island. Mrs. Roll noted that Lincoln once again has a Table of 10 reserved. She encouraged those who have not yet indicated their interest in attending to let Dr. Monaco know as soon as possible, given the deadline for registrations is October 3rd.

Beth Bedrossian announced that a group of students approached her about forming a HOSA (Health Occupations for Students of America) Club at Lincoln HS. Similar to the FBLA, this organization has a state and national structure for students interested in exploring careers in the Health sector. Beth has agreed to serve as Advisor to these students as they promote this new student organization and learn more about the opportunities available to their members.

Eliza Gobin, representing the LHS Green Team, spoke about plans that the LHS Green Team has to support a variety of environmental projects at the school this year by working with other student-led organizations at LHS.

Mrs. Roll noted the need to extend the discussion around Family Engagement during the coming year. Revisions to the District's Family Engagement Policy in May 2025 directs the Superintendent to develop a Protocol for implementing the Policy in each of the schools. Dr. Monaco indicated that she will assist in the Protocol's development. She described her experience with this work in Smithfield. She noted the importance of consistency across the District's schools, recognizing that the approach at the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools will be different. Mrs. Roll noted that every school has some structures in place for supporting the engagement of families. She emphasized the value of those structures as a starting point, but also noted the need to expand the work of engaging parents beyond what exists to ensure that family engagement efforts extend to all families.

Mrs. Hassell shared the importance of Family Engagement in the work of the Student Services office. Lincoln's SELAC (Special Education Local Advisory Committee) has grown significantly over the last two years. The first meeting of this school year on September 30th was the largest to date, with eight new families with Kindergarten students. Mrs. Roll noted that the requirement to all engage families is the result of Federal requirement under Title I that recognizes the important role that parents/families play in the success of children in school. Experience and research demonstrate that the same applies to all students.

The next meeting of the Health and Wellness Committee is scheduled for December 3rd at 8:00 AM in the LHS Media Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.