

Health Advisory Meeting 3.21.18

Present:

Lynnea Gleason

Rita Casper

Donna Ruseckas

Joseph Yarid

Alyson Luca

Agenda:

Food Dyes – following further discussion with our school physician and the members – cannot prevent presence of food dyes, although will forward a statement to PTO to be mindful of allergens and dyes. Food Services has eliminated products to the best of their ability at the elementary level. Cannot guarantee however.

Wellness policy/protocol review. Would like further discussion about food in schools, different views were expressed and discussion about lesson plans that include food. Schools are mindful of allergy concerns. Other options discussed eg “Food In a Bag” concept. Elementary schools monitor food closely, not as strict in secondary schools. Elementary schools – encourage Food Services for providing food. Recommend survey for schools regarding understanding and utilization of food/wellness protocol, it is incorporated into the new teacher orientation – but many employees are hired during the school year and do not attend this training. Suggestion to include this info in new hire paperwork.

New initiatives – SW small mindfulness lessons offered in the classroom, Climate and Culture Committee reviewing racial equality and gender bias.

AED – new regulations. Schools are in compliance – working with Town facilities for non-school buildings, Athletics is working with coaches.

Moving forward – Donna was approached by “Jump Rope for Heart” and other organizations wanting involvement with the school district. She will contact individual schools to determine their preferences re who to work with.

SBIRT – General policy covers all screenings. Letter out to parents in advance of screening and allows for opt out.

Next meeting Wednesday May 9th at 2.30. Invite to go out to larger group.