

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2021
3:15-4:30 p.m.
via Zoom

MINUTES

WELCOME

Richard McAlindin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

COVID-19 CASE UPDATE

Richard McAlindin thanked Michelle DeHaven and her team for overseeing the COVID-19 case counts in our district and notifying our employees and students whether they are a close contact, a low-risk contact and how long they need to stay home. We track the number of district cases on our dashboard, located on the district website and monitor case percentages so that we know if we are close to a 5% rate of those on campus, which would require us to close a school. Most of our schools are currently at about 1% positivity rate.

Michelle DeHaven shared that she is in close contact with the Orange County Health Care Agency regarding COVID-19 protocols. Michelle and her team have covered the cases on a daily basis, including the weekends, which helps to minimize the chance that people who are ill show up to campus on Monday morning.

Our nurses and health clerks have been able to receive the vaccine. They are not only dealing with COVID, they also handle the everyday health issues of students who are on campus for in-person learning, so we appreciate all of their time and efforts working for our children and families.

COVID-19 TESTING

PYLUSD staff has been exploring options for employee COVID testing. Guidance from the California Department of Public Health states that when testing becomes more readily available, all employees shall be tested every 60 days. We have implemented testing with Xpress Urgent Care to test all PYLUSD employees. Each site has a particular day for testing and so far sites where testing has taken place report that everything is very efficient and organized. Results come back within 24-48 hours. Any positive cases are reported to Michelle DeHaven; her team then follows up with the employee. Testing is billed to insurance companies directly for those with benefits, and the state is billed directly for those who do not have insurance benefits. This testing adds an additional layer to our efforts of safety on campuses and district offices.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

The State of California has implemented a plan for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, known as "Vaccinate All 58", referring to the 58 counties within California. The state gave each individual county the latitude to decide how to distribute the vaccine within their county. Orange County has developed a plan titled "Operation Independence" because their goal is to make sure that any citizen who resides or works in Orange County and who wants to accept the vaccine will have access to it prior to the July 4th.

Based on the state guidance, Orange County came up with a 3-phase system. We are currently in Phase 1A, which includes healthcare workers and long-term care residents. Phase 1B includes the education sector. In this phase, educators who reside or work in the County of Orange may receive the vaccine should they choose to do so. Within Phase 1B there are 3 tiers. The highest priority in this tier are staff members who work with students with high medical needs. The second priority are staff members who work with students in general education. The lowest priority in this tier are district office staff.

Once this phase opens to the education sector, hopefully in late January or early February, staff members can get a vaccine appointment by downloading the Othena app from the App Store or Google Play, registering, and then scheduling an appointment. Vaccines will be available at super "POD" (Point of Dispensing) sites, such as Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and possibly Anaheim Stadium, Anaheim Convention Center, and the OC Fairgrounds. Currently the vaccine is voluntary, not mandatory.

ASES GRANT RENEWAL AND FPM

Rob Casaba shared information regarding the ASES (After School Education and Safety) Grant renewal and Federal Program Monitoring. The application for renewal was brought to the PYLUSD Board of Education for approval at the February 21, 2021 meeting. Once the renewal is submitted, there will be a site visit by a team from the California Department of Education.

The Governor has proposed a \$4.9 billion one-time expenditure to support expanded learning in next year's budget. If this funding is approved, there is a possibility of additional funding for the ASES program next year. There may also be some carry-over monies available and staff is working on ideas to support students with those funds should they become available. The after school program is held at six schools:

- Rio Vista
- Ruby Drive
- Melrose
- Topaz
- Tynes
- Valadez

One of the grant requirements is that students are engaged in physical activity. The grant supports the social-emotional wellbeing of students, as well as the academic improvement of students. Our program is very collegial and supportive for the students. It has been difficult during the pandemic, but staff is making the best of the situation and doing as much to help students as possible.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program has been meeting virtually with students, and a STEM program has continued. The students in the ASES program also receive an extra meal, thanks to our Nutrition Services Department.

TRIENNIAL GOALS

Suzanne Morales reviewed the Wellness Committee goals for school years 2017-2020, showing areas of focus and improvement. It is time to develop new goals, so Suzanne asked the committee to look at three areas:

1. Identify new / ongoing focus areas
2. Develop goals for each determined focus area
3. Implement strategies to meet identified goals

It was agreed that a shared Google document would be created and sent to committee members in order to compile a list of ideas. At the next Wellness Committee meeting, these ideas will be discussed in order to create new goals.

USE OF VEGETABLES

Tracy Bryars from St. Jude asked if there is an interest in how to utilize the fruits and vegetables that are given to students in the drive-up meals. Perhaps we can share ideas as to how parents can use them in recipes at home as opposed to the students throwing them away. Suzanne Morales suggested that Nutrition Services could post some recipes on their website that would give ideas for utilizing the vegetables.

St. Jude would like to have a survey sent out to PYLUSD parents to see if the joint efforts of St. Jude and PYLUSD over the past few years have made an impact in the awareness of wellness for our students and families. The district would be able to add questions to the St. Jude survey to identify what the needs are for future planning. Richard McAlindin shared that perhaps in March we could send out this survey, since the district is currently preparing to send out our annual stakeholder survey to students, parents, and staff and we do not want to deluge them with surveys all at once.

YOUTH RESIDENT LEADERS

Melissa Arzivu from Community Action Partnership of Orange County shared that all of the PYLUSD Youth Resident Leaders are now juniors. Because of the pandemic, they now meet virtually on Saturday evenings. They had to create different projects from their originals, due to the fact they cannot go out because of the pandemic. Many of the students have found ways to volunteer virtually by becoming phone call volunteers for stay-at-home seniors. They have continued to donate at His House. One of the leaders has created a newsletter, which touches upon issues like adolescents and alcohol, school and stress fatigue, and it is all from the students' point of view. <https://www.pipsclub.org>.

They created a weekend chat club where they focus on mental health and other subjects such as self-care, self-love, leadership skills, mental health and stress.

At the beginning of the pandemic, one of the youth resident leaders came up with the idea for a club called "Funds for Ashes". The student was very concerned that many low-income residents in Placentia and Orange County do not have the resources to pay for services for their loved ones that pass away from COVID-19. Funds for Ashes helps pay for crematory services for families that have lost loved ones due to COVID-19. The student presented her idea at the Placentia Collaborative and received a scholarship from Cal State Fullerton to join a non-profit CEO training. She completed the training and turned her "club" into a non-profit organization. She is currently working on receiving grant funding from One Stop OC to help more families secure funding for crematory services. <http://fundsforashes.com/> [Funds for Ashes](#)

These students have not let the pandemic stop them, and they want these projects to continue once they graduate.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard McAlindin thanked the group for their attendance and reminded them that the next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.