

Safe Schools Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021

In attendance:

Ron Crowe, Dolores Robison, Mickel Lewis, Heather Martinsen, Jacqueline Gaston, Heather Wisnieski, Chrissy Fauls, John Wallingford, and Craig Lawhead

Not in attendance:

Jarcelynn Hart, Maria Ramadane, Justin Wilk, Jenifer Wall, Tamaica Jackson, Jennifer Smith, Andrew Barton, Samuel Chisolm Jr., Scott Hall, Erik Carlsen-Landy, Amber Macerelli, Christopher Brothers, and Lisa Delgado

Citizen's Comments: No citizens were present.

Dr. McDade attended the meeting to introduce herself to the council and share her vision for the work of the group. Dr. McDade reviewed her priorities for the Division and encouraged the Council to focus more broadly on school safety: to encompass not only mental health priorities, but also physical safety. She asked that the Council explore current school safety related topics and identify areas of strength, as well as, areas that might be improved.

Review meeting minutes from September 13, 2021.

Edits to spelling of names.

[REDACTED] A motion to approve September 13 meeting minutes was taken. Because a voting quorum was not present, a motion will need to be made at the November 8, 2021 meeting.

Presentation: Social Emotional Learning

The Council watched the recently released video, "PWCS HEALS Initiative" created by the Office of Student Services. The video outlined the scope of the multi-year initiative which is an important part of the Launching for Thriving Futures: Unfinished Learning Plan. Areas include: Adult Social Emotional Learning, Student Social Emotional Learning, Unfinished Social and Emotional Growth, and Health Centered Engagement Strategies.

Focus for 2021-22 school year

The Council discussed the by-laws with several members expressing an interest to refocus the work of the group toward school safety (physical), as opposed to mental health, particularly considering the initiatives that are coming out of the PWCS HEALS project. It was suggested that the Council spend this year gathering data and learning about various aspects of school safety.

Mr. Crowe shared with the group that information about the school safety audit is available through the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and that information about discipline data can be found on the VDOE site.

Mr. Crowe was asked to provide an overview of school safety efforts at the next meeting.

Lt. Lawhead shared information about the changing role of School Resource Officers in PWCS. He clarified that they are not "stepping back" from building rapport with students and supporting school safety. However, they are "stepping back" from pressing charges for minor infractions and letting the schools manage those through the discipline process.

Because a quorum was not present, a motion to shift the focus could not be proposed and elections for positions were not held. It was decided that these will be addressed at the next meeting.

7:45 p.m. Heather Martinson made the motion to adjourn, Mickel Lewis seconded.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.