

**District Advisory Committee
Board of Education Annual Mid-Year Written Report
2017-18**

Health and Safety DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Administrator Co-chairperson: Tara Brown

Co-chairperson: Stephanie Lewis

Charges:

- Focus on anxiety and depression, including screening and treatment in school-aged children
- Focus on best practices for handling outbreaks of communicable diseases
- Focus on drug and alcohol treatment and addiction awareness
- Focus on the Wellness Policy
- Focus on any other issues, if directed by the board

Accomplishments to date:

- *Focus on anxiety and depression, including screening and treatment in school-aged children*
 - Draft surveys (Youth Wellness Needs Assessment) are due to be sent out in Spring to students, parents and staff regarding their current view on mental health in general, services available and needs.
 - Results of survey will help direct the DAC as to where best practices need to be further developed.
 - Guest speaker Shuli Lotan (SMMUSD, mental health counselor) and Shawn Davis (CLARE foundation)
 - Guest speaker Julie Rusk, Santa Monica Chief of Civic Wellbeing
- *Focus on best practices for handling outbreaks of communicable diseases*
 - District website has been updated with informative links and best practices from the CDC for communicable diseases and mental health.
 - An algorithm for school site nurses was created to increase consistent and effective treatment pathways.
 - Guidelines for the district regarding preparedness for communicable disease outbreaks are in development.
- *Focus on drug and alcohol treatment and addiction awareness*
 - The Controlled Substance Board Policy is currently under revision and will receive input from the DAC.
 - Our goal is to strengthen the counselling/treatment portion of the policy, as prevention remains a large issue at the middle & high school levels.
 - The DAC is in the process of inviting the high school principals to share their initiatives and hurdles with this issue.
- *Focus on the Wellness Policy*
 - Final revision completed and will be presented to the Board at the February 1 meeting for approval.
 - DAC provided input into a revision of the Suicide Policy
- *Focus on any other issues, if directed by the board*

Highlight(s) to date of particular note:

- The DAC reviewed at length the Wellness policy, providing multiple viewpoints to update key areas that directly affect today's students. This was important work to be able to provide the Board and employees of the district as a road map for best practices related to Wellness. Our addition of guest speakers on this topic has provided our committee with a well-rounded definition of student wellness and this knowledge will continue to influence our path for addressing the most pressing needs of our student community.

Budgetary Implications: none at this time.