



April 5

2021

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Health and Safety Committee met on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 4:00 PM in LaunchED, Room 110, at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

ATTENDEES

Health and Safety Committee Members

Chairperson Melanie Bates, Pamela Bowers, Ryan Messer

Administration/Staff

Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Shelly, Director of Food Services; Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

CPS Government Liaisons

Eric Kearney, CEO, Kearney and Kearney

George Glover, Co-Managing Director, Focused Capital Solutions

Governmental Liaison Report on State Legislative Topics

Mr. Glover and Mr. Kearney updated the Committee on their March 2021 Monthly Report to the Board.

The following House Bills (HB) were highlighted in their report:

H.B. 1 (Replaced HB 305) (Callender, Sweeney) to create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

- If approved would be included in the House Budget Bill 110;
- Estimated cost 1.2 Billion dollars

H.B. 34 (Ingram) Require schools to transmit certain student's records within 5 days. Second Hearing on 2/16/21. Bill is of interest to CPS. May want to write a letter of support.

H.B. 67 (Koehler, Bird) Exempts public and chartered nonpublic schools from administering the state assessment if a waiver is granted by U.S. Dep't of Education. Passed House 93-1. In Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee. **This Bill is currently in the Senate.**

- For the 2020-2021 school year and high school graduation requirements for the 2020-2021 through 2023-2024 school years;
- Bill expected to pass quickly;
- Loosens graduation requirements due to COVID-19
- African American History was not exempted;

H.B. 126 (Merrin) To amend section 5715.19 of the Revised Code to require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

H.B. 117 (Brinkman) To enact new section 3311.242, to repeal section 3311.242 of the Revised Code, and to repeal Sections 6, 7, and 8 of S.B. 89 of the 133rd General Assembly regarding school district territory transfers and to declare an emergency.

- This Bill is not favored.

ACTION: Mr. Kearney will contact the Administration to inquire about testimony being provided for House Bills 1, 34 and 117.

Mr. Glover reported that he is monitoring H.B. 2 (Broadband) as State funding may becoming available.

A copy of the full report is available upon request and in the Board office.

Nutrition

Ms. Shelly updated the Committee on dining services that were ongoing during the pandemic months of March 2020 – March 2021.

Ms. Shelly reported that she focused on purchasing fresh produce from Ohio local farms and vendors.

- Employees Worked – 340
- Students Served: 34,977
- Meals Served – 3,374,333
- Grant Monies Awarded – \$1,545,769
- Food (Fresh Produce) for student meals provided by local farmers
- Weekly Remote Meal Packs contained:
 - Five Lunches (Entrée, Fruit, Vegetable, Milk)
 - Five Breakfasts (Entrée, Fruit, Juice, Milk)
 - Four Weekend Fuel Packs (Shelf Stable Snacks)

Ms. Shelly reported that meals will still be provided for remote families and for families when schools are open five days a week. (Meals will be served for those present at school.)

Boxed meals will continue to be provided for Cincinnati Digital Academy families. Meals will need to be picked up at the Academy.

Student Support Guide – Code of Conduct

Assistant Superintendent Bunte reported that the District's *Student Support Guide – Code of Conduct* emphasizes Positive Behavior Supports.

The goal of the Cincinnati Public Schools Student Support Guide – Code of Conduct is to also ensure all students the right to an education in a safe, civil, and caring environment. It is based on laws, regulations, and Board policies that create access to education for all students while protecting the due process rights of the individual.

Ms. Bunte informed the Committee about members on the District's 2020-2021 Discipline Committee.

She reported that the group focused on editing the Code of Conduct to decriminalize terminology used for offense terms, clarify language for consistency across the District, and to add language regarding remote learning and discipline during long-term school closures.

She also reported that members of the “Speak Up Speak Out” Committee will be added to the Discipline Committee.

Ms. Bunte will begin presenting Code of Conduct data to the Committee on a monthly basis beginning in August 2021, once the Health and Safety Committee determines its specific required data.

She provided the following examples for the Committee’s determination of their specific needs.

Office Discipline Referrals (ODR)

School Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2019-20	633	1917	4783	3538	3026	2203	4344
2020-21	1	66	117	93	35	63	125

Exclusionary Consequences

School Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2019-20	272	1390	2129	1435	1069	2237	2485
2020-21	0	11	24	17	1	2	27

Top Five Incidents

- February 2021
1. Cheating/Plagiarism (16)
 2. Disruptive Behavior (13)
 3. Profanity (9)
 4. Inappropriate Communication (8)
 4. Fighting (8)

Disaggregated District Data Per Month

February 2021

By Race, IP and EL (In Progress)

Enrollment	Percentage of Enrollment	Percentage of Office Referrals
African American	61.90%	68%
White	22.10%	22%
Latinx	7.60%	2.40%
IEP	19.5%	31%

The Committee had extensive conversation about the draft format and recommended to separate Alternative Learning Center (ALC) data from A2E/A2S (Alternative to Expulsion/Alternative to Suspension) data.

The Committee discussed aggregating the data by school and various demographics, including arrest report data, SRO (Student Resource Officer) data: training performance evaluation and offenses, (Executive Session) and tracking SROs by school. Minutes of instructional time lost and out-of-school and in-school exclusion data will also be included in the monthly report.

ACTION: Ms. Bunte will report on the various recommended variables at the April 26, 2021, Health and Safety Committee meeting. She will also provide the Committee with a memo regarding SRO data.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Trimble-Oliver provided a brief update and will present her full report at the March 15, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.

She reported that there was a small drop in the positivity rate, surveillance testing is still in the planning stages (focusing on high school students), in-school transmissions are still the same (8), and that there was a slight increase in safety protocols.

Other Business

The Committee discussed having data that was presented by the Young Activist Coalition at the February 5, 2021, Student Achievement and District Instructional Performance Committee meeting forwarded to the Health and Safety Committee.

Mr. Messer recommended having the Young Activist Coalition present at a Health and Safety Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed concerns around setting precedence and processes on how community groups present at Committee meetings.

Ms. Bates stated that topics related to the Committee's workplan would be appropriate for community groups to present.

ACTION: Mr. Messer inquired about creating a workplan on the current and future state of School Resource Officers (SRO) and what is the path forward.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Health and Safety Committee

Melanie Bates, Chair
Pamela Bowers
Ryan Messer

Staff Liaisons

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent, absent
Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer