

**Suffolk Public Schools
Health Advisory Board
November 12, 2024**

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting began at 4:02pm. Those attending virtually included Camille Hundley-Prince, Christina Emerson, and Tricia Kastelitz. Those attending in-person were Sara Williford, James Gunther, Regina Tindal, Dr. Carletta Artis, Donna Van Eck, Margaret Rankin, James Elza, Lori Miller, and Karen Jenkins.

The minutes of the May 21, 2024, meeting were read.

2. Charge and expectations of the School Health Advisory Board - Mrs. Karen Jenkins, School Board Chair

(This item occurred at the end of the meeting due to traffic delays for Mrs. Jenkins.) Mrs. Jenkins delivered the charge to the School Health Advisory Board. The floor was then opened for nomination of a board chair. Dr. Artis made a motion to nominate herself. Margaret Rankin seconded the motion. The vote was called for. All in attendance, both virtual and in person voted yes, none opposed. Mrs. Jenkins then had the chair take an oath to perform the duties to the best of her ability.

The floor was also opened for any individual willing to step forward as a secretary, to keep the minutes of the meetings. Regina Tindal volunteered to hold that position.

3. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business identified.

Tricia Kastelitz gave her departmental report (as noted below) immediately following introductions and the reading of the last meeting's minutes as she needed to leave to assist with a community event.

4. New Business

a. An overview of student immunization status

Sara Williford provided the group with an overview of school immunization status both at the state level and the local school division level from 2008 -

2023 - noting the fluctuating changes in the “adequately immunized” rate for both. The pandemic of 2020 may have played a role in vaccine hesitancy and waning immunization rates both at the state and local levels. Overall, however, the local school division has been able to maintain rates above the state average. At the conclusion of the presentation, board members were asked for input regarding barriers, providing information to families, and community partnership ideas. Most in attendance who had knowledge of the platforms indicated that the PeachJar flyer notification system seemed to be a preferred method of communication while the “robo calls” received mixed response as to their effectiveness. Dr. Artis suggested bringing in outside resources through avenues such as the ODU mobile clinic to offer immunizations on site. James Gunther suggested adding immunizations to the school supply lists as a way to raise parental awareness prior to the start of school. James Elza concluded with the comment that we saw the importance of vaccines during COVID.

5. Department Reports

a. Food and Nutrition Services

Tricia announced that Suffolk Public Schools is officially a Rev Your Bev partner! This follows the school board adopting recommendations to the wellness policy that were presented by the SHAB committee. The groundwork for this was laid during the SHAB meetings in the 2023-2024 school year. More information to follow over the coming months.

Suffolk Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services was hosting a Nourishing Our Neighbors event during the afternoon/evening of November 12th to pass out fresh fruits and vegetables to participating families. This program is made possible through the food bank. Last year they were able to host six Nourishing Our Neighbors events throughout the year. This year they plan on two - due to less donations.

b. Student Health Services

The Virginia Association of School Nurses conference was held this past weekend at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Suffolk had 6 nurses attend the event.

We are currently working through the process to stock Naloxone - emergency medication for the reversal of opioid overdoses in each of our

schools. The school board has adopted policy, guidelines have been written, the nurses have been trained in the administration of Naloxone, and the division is currently working through the MOU process with VDH to obtain the stock medication. The Code of Virginia requires that Naloxone be stocked by the 2025-2026 school year, however our goal is to stock it starting within this school year.

We are also starting to work on the process of forming Cardiac Emergency Response Teams within our schools. This would provide extra support by trained staff during a cardiac emergency.

c. Employee Wellness/K-12 Health & P.E.

James Gunther provided a brief update on employee wellness. He noted that the Virgin Pulse app is up and running for staff for the current school year. Staff can log in, track their own progress on health goals, and compete with other staff members to earn points for completed wellness activities. Based on participation from the 23/24 school year, NPES won a teacher lounge makeover. James was not sure what other schools/departments won the awards, but it's getting competitive!

Updates on K-12 Health and P.E. include:

- The Big Feet Meet was held on Oct. 30th at LHS with approximately 100 athletes and their partners. 75 student volunteers were from LHS (adapted PE class, Advanced PE, ROTC and other students).
- Two new HPE 10th grade teachers were hired and are certified in DMV instruction.
- One new HPE 9th grade teacher was hired and has passed the Red Cross certification to be a CPR instructor.
- KFHS and LHS held the remote DMV testing in Oct. and NRHS will hold one on Nov. 21st. The DMV is still working to train several staff members in testing.
- Erika's Lighthouse Parent night is being held tonight, 11/12, for the first semester HPE 10 students with lessons to be held Nov 18th - 20th in partnership with the school counselors.
- Three HPE teachers attend the Virginia AHPERD (Assoc. For Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) conference in VA Beach.

- HPE is partnering with ODU on a grant for Active Learning Leaders for grades K - 2nd which will focus on cross-curricular (math and literacy) teaching.

6. Closing Comments

Following the selection of a committee chair, the remaining meeting dates for the year were discussed and agreed upon as listed below. The time for the remaining meetings will be set for 4:30pm - 5:30pm to allow for all committee members to participate. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm.

7. Next meeting dates (adopted):

- a. Tuesday, January 28, 2025 (inclement weather date of Thursday, January 30, 2025)**
- b. Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

Meeting time 4:30pm - 5:30pm, location TBD (The CCAP conference room will be requested for the remaining meetings also).