



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

### Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Online

**Committee Members Present:** Warren Baucom, Lucinda Defreitas, Ryan McLain, David Montrose, John Miller, Brian Rasnick, William Ribble, Denis Ryan, Amanda Smelker, Dr. Michele Stork

**Absent:** Anthony Bennie,

**School Board Liaison:** Gwynetta Gittens

**Staff Members Present:** Cindy McClung, Director, Continuous Improvement

**Recording Secretary:** Julie Holcomb

**Guests:** Lori Brooks, Mary Lynn Rodriguez

#### Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michele Stork at 6:00 p.m.

Cindy welcomed the members to the meeting.

#### Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

The January 13, 2021 meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

The December 9, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

#### EnVision 2030 Objective 1: Increase Student Success, Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health Initiatives

Cindy McClung introduced Lori Brooks, Director of the School Counseling and Mental Health Services department, and Mary Lynn Rodriguez, Coordinator in the School Counseling and Mental Health Services department. Their presentation covers the Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health Initiatives that are part of EnVision 2030 Objective 1.

The presentation started with members taking a moment to think about what they are grateful today, and sharing with the group.

The Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs diagram was reviewed, along with how each level relates to the education setting.

### **School SEL Initiatives**

The school-based initiatives were reviewed, including Family/Community, Policy/Practice, and Curriculum.

The CASEL model was reviewed. CASEL is a collaborative for social emotional learning standards.

Schools may select programs appropriate to meet their specific student needs.

### **District Initiatives**

The three areas for of instruction were reviewed, along with the process the District went through to meet the State requirements and guidelines for Grades 6-12.

Wellness Wednesdays were in place regularly, and then COVID occurred, and specific solutions needed to be developed to meet the current needs of students and families.

The resources and programs developed were discussed, including a back-to-school toolkit, lists of mental health resources within the school system and community, and a mentoring piece within the school setting.

Many different on-demand COVID resources were shared with schools as a part of the back-to-school toolkit as well to enhance the current curriculum.

From March through summer, services and resources were available to families and students, including support with school-based counselors providing support.

The small group counseling and Community Family Response Teams that were created as part of the CARES Act Funding was discussed including resources available.

The professional development provided to staff members included "noticing skills" to make sure students who need further assistance receive the resources and counseling needed.

Several in-depth professional development training resources are available to school-based mental health professionals, and school-based staff.

The Trust-based Relational Intervention training focuses on resources for connecting, empowering, and correcting. Trauma does not need to be one significant life-altering event, and may be repeated trauma repeated over time. The goal is to have all teachers in the District trained in this approach, but in the meantime the training is available for schools as requested, and both Lori and Mary Lynn are certified trainers for this program.

### **School-based Mental Health Services**

The District's school-based mental health program was reviewed, including importance of the resources and how the program aligns with community-based services to ensure students receive the support they need in a system of care.

The Florida system of supports for school-based mental health services pyramid was reviewed, including how the "tier" approach aligns with the needs of students in the District.

Lori provided an overview of the mental health services system in the District including mental health professionals involved in the process, the mental health teams, community partnership, as well as implementation of the Mental Health and Wellness Portal to provide 24/7 access to assistance.

Committee Members were encouraged to provide feedback on suggestions for the mental health system in our District.

Dr. Stork – How do you measure success of the initiatives? Lori stated that there is a lot of data is gathered, we do monitor number of students that are identified as potentially in need of mental health, including effectiveness of program. The social-emotional learning programs schools are using have pre- and post-tests, referral data.

Dr. Stork – How would one know to click on Student Services to access Mental Health and Wellness Portal? This link was on the main web page for a period of time, and it has been moved, but our webmaster is trying to weigh minimal clicks for users to ensure they can access resources with a minimal amount of “clicks”. Lori noted she will follow-up on the location of the resource and options for displaying this timely information.

Mr. Ryan – How is the screening done and do caseworkers stay with the student throughout their school? Lori noted that the student screening is done for students that have been identified as a possible concern, with parent permission. Once the screening is done and if a need is identified, the student’s supports will move from school to school and level to level. Once they graduate from the services, they progress and do well.

Ms. Smelker – What percentage of students are receiving services? How is the target set? Lori stated that the target is every student in need. Universal screening has been discussed, but there would be parent concerns; however, this type of screening is the best identifier, but services and resources would likely not be available to serve all of the needs identified. There are benefits and drawbacks to the process. The education piece for staff is critical. During the 2019-2020 school year, approximately 10,000 students were provided services.

Ms. Gittens – Transition toolbox and how teachers and staff were trained to help students coming back (it is the first day of school for some student every day), how do teachers cope with the ever changing number of students coming back into the classroom? Mary Lynn noted there is a cadre of school counselors that helped develop programs to help with relationship building, including a core group of students and ongoing support and students continue to return to the classroom and create a sense of community. Topics vary by level.

Ryan McLain – Who is training the people responsible for delivery of sensitive curriculum with students? Lori explained that the topics had to be reviewed, and the State provided further clarification. Parents, teachers, administrators and staff members were concerned about requirements and how to make them available within the timeline from the State. Because it is required health instruction, and the topics are very low-level, the health instruction would prevent the issues with assistance from skills trained for coping, prevention. The training was done through video instruction, there is a script provided, and discussion questions are provided for facilitating discussion with students. If teachers were uncomfortable with the content, a staff member was provided to assist the teacher as needed.

Mr. Ribble noted that the delegation meeting scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> did not go as planned due to COVID and time periods were reduced. Mental health issues were one of the “asks” presented by three of the cities.

**Public Comment**

N/A

## **Board Member Report**

Mrs. Gittens described the different types of meetings held by the Board, and whether public comment is taken at each.

**Briefing Meetings** – new information to be moved forward – Board Members are able to ask questions, public comment is taken.

**Workshops** – no public input, initiatives are known to Board Members, Agendas are reviewed, Board Members are able to ask questions prior to Board Meeting.

Ms. Gittens noted that the Board Agenda is made public seven days prior to the Board Meeting. If there are topics of interest, contact Ms. Gittens or another Board Member with questions/input so they can be prepared to ask questions.

Proximity Plan – A town hall meeting is taking place to explain the process for neighborhood schools. Board Members encouraged that this initiative is explained at a level that everyone can understand. Dr. Stork noted that a lot of parents do not know what the term Proximity Plan means.

Parent and Community Involvement is a Strategic Plan item each year. A proposal was put forth to provide computers and allow meeting participants to enter their address/information to have a visual of the zone selections for their student instead of a presentation. Parents want to know “what is in this for me.”

The project is in the process of obtaining data during the beginning stage.

Some are concerned about keeping demographics in alignment, and the Superintendent assured that this is being addressed within the plan.

The link to the Proximity Plan is

<https://www.leeschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=676305&pageId=32186600>

The K-8 Add-on is also a topic being reviewed and discussed.

The District is in need of teachers. Teachers did return from Home Connect and Lee Virtual, but some teachers had to take family leave due to being unable to return to the in-person classroom model.

Kindergarten Readiness is a project being addressed.

## **Good of the Order**

Cindy McClung noted that there will be a presentation on the Proximity Plan at the February 10, 2021 meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

## **2020-2021 Meeting Schedule**

September 16, 2020 (Online via Zoom)

October 14, 2020 (Online via Zoom)

November 11, 2020 (Online via Zoom) – CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

December 9, 2020 (Online via Zoom) – Make-up

January 13, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

February 10, 2021(Online via Zoom)

March 10, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

April 14, 2021(Online via Zoom)

All meetings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### CSI Advisory Committee Website

The CSI Advisory Committee website provides meeting dates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

[https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school\\_board/advisory\\_committee\\_information/csi\\_advisory\\_committee](https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school_board/advisory_committee_information/csi_advisory_committee)

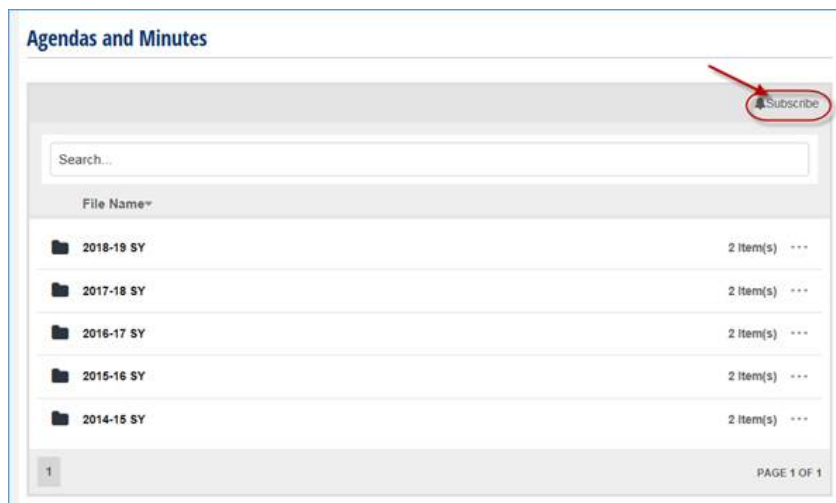
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