



New Hope-Solebury School District

Bullying Ad Hoc Committee

May 18, 2016—6:00PM

District Office Conference Room

Attendance

- **School Board** –Jennifer Gormley
- **Administration** – Dr. Steve Yanni, Dr. Mike McKenna, Dr. Chris Cortellessa
- **Committee Members** –Juli Vogelsang, Wayne Fowler, Melvin Band, Sarah Zimov Levinson, Deborah Peckman, Stan Marcus, Pam Thompson
- **Presenters** – None
- **Public** – Tracey Costigan

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gormley at 6:00PM.

The committee approved the minutes from the April 20, 2016 meeting with the addition of the “hot spots” language made by Mr. Band. Dr. Yanni reminded committee members that minutes are high-level overviews of meetings and contain summaries and action items. Individual comments, while not captured in the minutes, are available via audio.

New Business

- Mrs. Gormley and Dr. Yanni discussed the parameters of the meeting, which included remaining objective while reviewing and making recommendations for policy and administrative regulations as well as completing a gap analysis of current and idea approaches to bullying education, prevention, and intervention.
- Dr. Yanni began a group review of the policy. The recommended changes to Policy 249 are being posted along with these minutes. These recommendations will be discussed at the upcoming policy meeting in June. The major points of the discussion focused on clearly defining bullying and the idea of maintaining confidentiality during investigations. The committee also discussed defining the idea of a power imbalance as it relates to bullying.
- Following the review of the policy, the committee examined the administrative regulation. Dr. Yanni pointed out that due to the addition of the confidentiality clause in the policy, much of the administrative regulation no longer applies. One point of clarification is that upon legal review, it is

recommended that we do not indicated that all investigations of bullying will be initiated within 24 hours. The language will read “as soon as practically possible.” Crisis situations are acted upon immediately, and all other investigations begin with a 24 hour period unless there are circumstances (i.e. weekends, snow days, other emergencies) that prevent an investigation from happening.

- The recommended administrative regulation is being posted with these minutes. Administrative regulations do not require committee or board approval; however, the administration appreciates the committee’s comments and suggestions as they related to the administrative regulation.
- The committee then conducted the gap analysis between current and idea approaches to bullying education, prevention, and intervention. Dr. McKenna facilitated the elementary group while Dr. Cortellessa facilitated the secondary group.
- Each group charted approaches that are strengths (glow areas) and relative areas of opportunities (grow areas). These include:
 - Elementary
 - Glow: Responsive classroom philosophy, climate gatherings, school wide-positive behavior
 - Grow: Increase mindfulness training/awareness, consider tracking behavioral data, teach zones of regulation, add staff in “hot spot” areas, include support staff and bus drivers in professional development related to bullying
 - Secondary
 - Glow: Bullying Prevention Team
 - Grow: Continue to cultivate a culture of respect, allow an electronic means of communication to report bullying, conduct a student survey regarding bullying
- Dr. Yanni, Mr. Malone, and the principals will use the data from the last two bullying ad hoc meetings to construct action plans for addressing bullying education, prevention, and intervention for the 2016-2017 school year. This information will also be embedded into our Comprehensive Plan.
- Ad hoc committee members will receive draft action plans for comments by the end of July. All feedback and input will be considered and formal action plans will be implemented in the fall.
- The ad hoc will most likely meet once or twice during the 2016-2017 school year to regroup and discuss progress in the areas of bullying education, prevention, and intervention.

Mrs. Gormley adjourned the meeting at 7:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Yanni, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools