

School Safety Technical Assistance Council Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Minnesota Department of Education, Conference Center A, Rooms 13 and 14

Members Present: Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights Kevin Lindsey, Julie Blaha, Joanna Carlson, Curtis Carpenter, Lisa Engelstad, John Hunt, Brad Johnson, Randy Johnson, Julie Hertzog, Tony McClay, Robyn Millenacker, Cathy Miller, Danny Porter, Michael Reinhardt, Jake Ross, Kelly Smith, Amanda Twite, William Wyss.

MDE Staff Present: Craig Wethington, Kevin McHenry, Heather Hirsch, Amy Marsicano, Nancy Riestenberg, and Patty Mattern.

Unable to Attend: Commissioner Brenda Cassellius, Melissa Callahan, Zeam Porter, Jeanette Swanson, and Angela Willms.

1. **Welcome:** Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights Kevin Lindsey called the meeting to order.
2. **Approval of November 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Minutes were approved with the addition of attaching the state model policy amendments.
3. **Presentation:** Jake Ross gave his original oratory speech titled *Safe Schools Law Needs to Be Supported*.
4. **School Safety Technical Assistance Center Director Report:** Craig Wethington provided a brief report on the center's progress, which included an overview of the center's workplan, statistics on parent and school phone calls and emails received, and the number of bullying policies received from the districts and charter schools. A request was made to see a copy of the center's workplan. A copy will be emailed to the council members. Craig asked if any council members would like to be volunteers on two projects included in the center's workplan. The first project involves review of a safe and supportive school improvement toolkit that is under development. Julie Blaha, Lisa Engelstad, Robyn Millenacker, Dan Porter and Tony McClay volunteered for the project. The second was for volunteers to assist in planning a safe and supportive schools symposium. Joanna Carlson, Robyn Millenacker, Dan Porter, Tony McClay, Julie Hertzog and Curt Carpenter volunteered for the second

project. Lastly, Craig provided information about a voluntary school climate survey that was sent to school leaders to assess their needs for safe and supportive school policies, training and resources. Council members asked if they could see the results of the survey. The survey results will be shared with the council members.

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Draft workgroup charter and proposed groups:** During the October 2014 meeting, the council asked Craig to come back to the February 4 meeting and present options of workgroups for their consideration. Craig presented a workgroup charter draft to the council. The purpose of the charter is to define a workgroup's purpose and responsibilities. The draft charter was approved with one amendment to add a minimum number of workgroups members as three. Discussion was held about how to review and make updates to the charter. It was decided that the council would review the charter annually. The length of term was also discussed to be one year, but was decided that the current reference to length of term would suffice. Next, the council participated in a group process to choose its workgroups. Six options were presented and council members were asked to narrow it down to three. The council held a vote to decide on the three workgroups from the six options provided and the following were the results.

- **Training for School Personnel:** 14 votes
- **Cyberbullying and Electronic Aggression:** 11 votes
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards:** 10 votes
- **Discipline Policies:** Seven votes
- **Mental Health:** Seven votes
- **High-Quality Operations plan:** Two votes

Lastly, the council divided into small groups and discussed key issues and questions they'd like each workgroup to specifically address related to each of the workgroup topics of Cyberbullying and Electronic Aggression, SEL and Training for School Personnel. The center staff facilitated the small group discussions. The center staff will review the small group feedback and determine the specific projects for the workgroups.

6. **New Business:**

a. **Operating Principles:** Operating principles are important to outline how the council conducts its business and in assisting the chairs with efficiently managing the meetings. Craig asked for volunteers to work on creating operating principles for the council. The volunteers were: Julie Blaha and Bill

Wyss. They will work alongside Commissioner Lindsey to develop the operating principles.

b. Public Comments:

- i. Michelle Dibblee with OutFront Minnesota mentioned the upcoming Youth Summit that will take place on Monday, March 2, 2015 at the Wellstone Center in St. Paul.
7. Dan Porter talked about legislation introduced that proposes changes to the Safe and Supportive Schools Act. He asked center staff if they could inform council members about such legislative proposals in the future. Center staff will do so.
8. **Meeting Adjourned.**

The next council meeting is April 7, 2015 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Education, Conference Center A, Rooms 13 and 14.