

School Safety Technical Assistance Council

Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

3 – 5 p.m.

Minnesota Department of Education
Conference Center A, Room 13

Members Present: Commissioner Kevin Lindsey, Tom DeGree, Lisa Engelstad, Julie Hertzog, Cathy Miller, Beth Ness, Danny Porter and Jake Ross.

Members Unable to Attend: Commissioner Brenda Cassellius, Melissa Callahan, Joanna Carlson, Jon Hunt, Randy Johnson, Darren Kermes, Robyn Millenracker, Tony Porter, Zeam Porter, Jeanne Swanson, Amanda Twite, Angela Willms and Bill Wyss.

MDE Staff Present: Kevin McHenry, Craig Wethington, Josh Collins, Patty Mattern, Nancy Riestenberg, Heather Hirsch and Brooke Stelzer.

Guests Present: Jessica Brennan, Ben Bauer and Melanie Ross.

- I. Welcome: Commissioner Kevin Lindsey called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of April 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes: One correction made to the spelling of Lisa Engelstad's name and minutes were approved.
- III. School Safety Technical Assistance Center Director's Report: Craig Wethington provided a report on the work of the Center. He introduced new Center staff member Brooke Stelzer. She will work on CDC DASH grant. Nancy Riestenberg led the largest MDE Restorative Practices in Schools Trainings to date from June 20 to 24. Nancy Riestenberg discussed the history of MDE's Restorative Practices trainings since 2000. She and 16 other trainers provided nine sessions and 300 people participated in the workshops. Nancy Riestenberg has convened a state leadership group focused on getting more Restorative Practices training and support into schools. The Center has developed a cadre of 13 people who are trained and certified in the McGrath Bullying and Harassment: Minimize the Risk program. This cadre will provide trainings on bullying intervention, investigation and response. First training was last week in Red Wing. We finished a 18-month School Climate Improvement Certification program. Staff members from the Minnesota Service Cooperative's nine regional educational service agencies, leaders from the Red Wing and St. James school districts and three MDE completed the program and earned certification. These school climate leaders will be providing more support to schools who are interested in school climate improvement. CDC grant work continues. The Center provides training and technical assistance to 10 school districts to expand adolescent school sexual health services. We partnered with MDE colleagues to provide discipline webinars during the spring. We will be doing three more discipline webinars this fall. Work on gender inclusion resource guide

continues. Work on social emotional learning continues. We're drafting a School Leaders guide on school climate improvement. We're developing rubric to assess school district bullying prohibition policies. Increasing communications about resources, trainings, workshops and technical assistance was discussed.

- I. Presentation: "Restorative Practices and Bullying," Nancy Riestenberg, School Safety Technical Assistance Center.
- II. Old Business
 - a. Workgroup Updates
 - i. Social Emotional Learning Statewide Guidelines: Workgroup Chair Lisa Engelstad reported that SEL goals, grade bands, benchmarks and sample activities are out for national review. Workgroup will meet in September to review feedback. The Center (Minnesota) has been selected as one of eight states to participate in the Collaborating States Initiative. As a participant, Minnesota has access to CASEL's national team of expert advisors and will receive ongoing consultation with CASEL as well as resources from CASEL and other states and districts.
 - ii. Preventing Cyberbullying and Electronic Aggression: Heather Hirsch presented the report from Workgroup Chair Melissa Callahan. The workgroup has been meeting for 15 months and developed series of guidance documents on the website. Members are considering next steps. Have they completed the work given to them? Or is there more that this workgroup should address? Council members indicated they want to review what has been done and if there is other work they want the workgroup to address. This will be further discussed at November's Council meeting.
 - iii. Gender Inclusion Resource Guide. This workgroup has met twice and members are pulling together best practices for the resource guide. The draft resource guide will be brought before the Council at its November meeting.
 - b. Committee Updates
 - i. 2017 Safe and Supportive Schools Conference: Heather Hirsch reported that the Center is planning a Safe and Supportive Schools Conference in 2017. Center staff is asking for volunteers to serve on a conference planning committee and encourages Council members to volunteer. Let Heather or Craig know if interested in volunteering.
- III. New Business
 - a. Two Years Later: Revisiting the Council's Duties: Craig Wethington gave an overview of the work the Council has completed in the past two years and he asked Council members to reflect on their duties and what they've accomplished since beginning work. Council members broke into small groups and discussed their work and reported highlights of their discussions. Council members want to: increase awareness of the resources and technical assistance available from the Center/Council

through communications; understand the impact of the Council and Center; and determine how well schools are doing in meeting the expectations of the law.

IV. Public Comments: None

V. Other Business/Updates

- a. Working Chair: Julie Hertzog has been the working chair. She will step down from that role and Darren Kermes will be the new working chair.
- b. District Policies: Craig Wethington provided council members with a list of school districts or charter schools that still need to submit their policies.
- c. Meeting Dates: Council members agreed that the Council should meet four times within the school year. 2017 meeting dates are January 17, February 7, August 1, and November 7.

VI. Adjourn at 5p.m.

VII. 2016 Council Meeting Dates:

- a. November 1, 2016