

# Minutes

## School Safety Task Force – Working Group # 3

On July 25, 2018, the Safety Working Group #3 – Student Conduct and Student Discipline met at CTC@ Hull in room A261. This is the third meeting for the Safety Working Group #3. Dr. Chad Knowles (facilitator) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.; Mr. Robert Thompson (chairperson) was not in attendance. Dr. Knowles introduced Mr. Donald R. Fairheart, Interim Superintendent. He thanked the members for their commitment to help students and staff by being on the committee. Dr. Knowles allowed the members to review the agenda and minutes.

Dr. Knowles asked the members if there was a motion on the floor to accept the minutes and Mrs. Holly Oehrlein motioned to accept the minutes, Mr. James Nankervis seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Knowles gave an overview of the agenda and told the group when they break into the sub-work groups, they will need to have two or three items to present back to the group when we return to room A261. Dr. Knowles said at the next meeting we will finalize the top 5 items that will be used for the White Paper presentation to the School Safety Task Force in September 2018. Additionally, Dr. Knowles gave an overview of our last meeting that took place on June 27, 2018.

### **Members present:**

1. Ronal Hall
2. Holly Oehrlein
3. James Nankervis
4. Gena Reeder
5. John Witherspoon
6. Dr. John Murray
7. Lisa Mansfield
8. Stacey Haney

### **Guest in attendance:**

1. Mr. Tim Bullis – CCPS
2. Mr. Wendell Roberts – CCPS
3. Ms. Jeanean Phelps – CCPS
4. Dr. Lisa Micou – CCPS
5. Dr. Connie Honsinger – CCPS
6. Mrs. Erica Gervais –CCPS
7. Mrs. Angela Cox
8. Ms. Bella Cox

Following next agenda items, Dr. Knowles introduces the four Specialists from the Student Support Team: Ms. Jeanean Phelps, Dr. Lisa Micou, Dr. Connie Honsinger and Mrs. Erica Gervais. The Specialists presented slide presentations on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), Restorative Practices (RP), Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

Ms. Phelps spoke on how PBIS is a Tier level of support system. Last year we had 56 schools using PBIS and others will come on board this fall. By using PBIS it can help build and develop clear disciplinary procedures. Mrs. Gervais presented information on PBIS and stated it differs at each school, it is a unique model, can help build programs that are unique to each school, use data to drive the programs and all schools are different.

Dr. Micou spoke on TIC and said 25% of all students will experience at least one trauma event. Stress impact cognitive behavior and sometimes at the Tier 1 level students still have problems. How do we teach coping strategies? The window of tolerance differs for each child.

Dr. Honsinger spoke on SEL and how there is overlap of services. She stated that using the 5 competencies (self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making) will lead to the success of students. Principals can look at the SEL framework and adjust to see what works. There are 14 schools on track next school year for SEL and 6 more are in the pilot process.

Ms. Phelps also spoke on RP, she talked about the 5 R's (relationship, respect, responsibility, restorative repair and reintegration) can help in lowering bullying. She also talked about how the Proactive Circle decrease negative behavior. It could take 3 to 5 years to make the shift in schools. The Specialists all agreed that students have benefited from the services and staff needs more training.

During the presentations, several questions were asked by: Mr. Ronald Hall, and Mrs. Gena Reeder.

**Here are some of the questions that were raised:**

- How does this tie in to suspensions?
- How many were caused by one or two students?
- What is a positive environment?
- Does the principal have a say or does staff tell them what to do?
- How are you empowering the schools?
- Are principals: principals or supervisors?
- What are the staffing needs?
- Do you agree or disagree that certain behaviors do or do not violate others who wants to learn?
- Should one or two kids be allowed to disrupt 25 students who want to learn?

- What kind of mental health services are in the building?

There were several replies to some of the questions and they were given by Dr. John Murray Mr. James Nankervis, Dr. Knowles, Mr. Fairheart and the four specialists.

**Their replies were as follows:**

- Students get removed from the class and they can get support services outside of school.
- Everything we do is data driven.
- All kids can learn
- Changing adult behavior will have changes to student behavior.
- Looking at the SWIS Data for issues
- Spending the time during the year using the resources, staff will get that time back later.
- No additional resources
- Thinking differently
- School Safety – Building on Social and Emotional skills.
- Provide wrap-a-round services
- Unique to Matoaca and be successful at another school.
- Need to have teacher buy in

After the presentations and discussions were over, Dr. Knowles had the members break into their three sub working groups: Sub-group #1 (Chesterfield Schools Code of Conduct/ Required by Law Reporting to Law Enforcement) met in Room A264. Sub-group #2 (Student Disciplinary Actions and Discipline Disparities/ Alternative Approaches/ Education for Student Discipline) met in Room A261. Sub-group #3 (Bullying Prevention (including cyberbullying) met in Room A252.

After the breakout sessions ended the members returned to room A261. Each spokesperson was allotted time to report topics discussed in their breakout session. Mrs. Gena Reeder was the spokesperson for group # 1. Here are some of their discussion topics:

- Code of Conduct
- Zero tolerance being done away with
- More communication with parents from administration
- Using language that is clear with parents in their communications
- Verbal Threats – Does not always mean what they say
- What is non-negotiable?

Mrs. Stacey Haney was the spokesperson for group # 2. Here are some of their discussion topics:

- Providing administrators resources at the school level to give the principals the tools they need (counselor, psychologist, administrators etc),
- What happens when students are suspended out of school – what services will help them back in school?
- New changes in the law – Do we have the resources (alternative education services) within the school to do that?
- Can the Office for Student Conduct spend time to audit school administration teams?
- Differential support staff – Can it become a reportable category?
- Get rid of In-School Detention (ISD) - Provide more counselors to do more to help the child.

Mrs. Holly Oehrlein was the spokesperson for group # 3. Here are some of their discussion topics:

- We need counselors to do more in the schools.
- Need more Intervention Specialists
- Continued Support – Recommend another position for Ms. Jeanean Phelps's team.

Dr. Knowles will work on having the Mental Health Specialists at our next meeting which will be August 29, 2018, 3:00-5:00 p. m. at CTC Hull in room A261. Also, he asked the scribes/spokesperson of each sub-group to email him their recommendations.

Mr. Fairheart and Dr. Knowles thanked the members for their work that was put into the sub working groups. Dr. Knowles asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Ronald Hall motioned to adjourn, Mrs. Holly Oehlein seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr Knowles adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

The minutes were recorded and submitted by Theodore Reynolds, Student Conduct Intervention & Response Specialist (Facilitator).