



Hastings and Prince Edward
District School Board

**Minutes from the
Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 17 to November 23, 2013
Planning Session 1
September 09, 2013**



Members present: Marion Moon, OSSTF, Doug Thur, HAPE-OTL, Kimberly Doyle, PE Community Living, Melanie Crawford, CYC, Lynn Crawford-Beare, Coordinator, Therese McMahon, Coordinator, Shelley Steele, Safe Schools Supervisor, Jeff Sudds, CYC, Rachael Lidstone, Student Senate, Angel Brant, Student Voice, Bailey Reddick, Student Voice, Pierre Martin, ETFO, Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education, Colleen DeMille, Superintendent of School Climate Student Well-Being, Dave Templar, Loyalist College, Stephanie Taylor-Harvey, Principal Kente Public School, Kerry Donnell, Communications Officer, Donalda Simmons, Mental Health Lead, Earle Wright, Principal, Queen Elizabeth School – Belleville, Hayden Grierson, Student Senate, Thelma Goodfellow, Trustee, Eric Fetterly, Vice-principal, Centennial Secondary School, Maribeth deSnoo, Executive Director, Learning Foundation, Susan Davies, Coordinator.

Regrets: Terry Swift, Children’s Mental Health, Alana Deubel, Central Hastings OPP, Anthony Mann, Prince Edward OPP, Deb Skinner, Prince Edward Community Living, Catherine O’Rourke, Loyalist College, Meghan Peckham, Student Trustee.

Resource:

Colleen DeMille, Superintendent of Education, School Climate and Student Well-Being, Shelley Steele, Supervisor Safe Schools.

Minutes:

Dot Burshaw

Welcome

Colleen DeMille welcomed the committee and thanked everyone for their commitment and dedication to this committee. The Director of Education, Mandy Savery-Whiteway was introduced.

AiM—Achievement in Motion for Student Success System Plan

Director Savery-Whiteway thanked the committee for the invitation and talked about the AiM—Achievement in Motion for Student Success System Plan. She pointed out the three goals:

- Success for each student
- Employee excellence
- Community connections

Mandy Savery-Whiteway described how these goals connect to the work this committee is doing. She commented on fixed and growth mindsets, mental health and well-being for staff and students. It is the

commitment of this school board to create safe and caring schools as the foundation for all our work. The focus is on character development and is valued by all schools and the community.

School Climate and Student Well-Being

Superintendent DeMille outlined the new portfolio she is responsible for. It is called School Climate and Student Well-being, and encompasses Safe Schools, Equity and Inclusivity, Child and Youth Counsellors, Attendance Counsellors, Character Development, Section 23, Leadership Development and Mental Health.

It was mentioned that the Ontario Teachers' Federation has created excellent resources for schools on Bullying Awareness and Prevention. These resources support victims, bullies, bystanders and parents.

Superintendent DeMille described two goals of the committee.

1. Replicate the success of Bullying Awareness and Prevention week by continuing to provide the kind of support and promotion that makes the week successful.
2. Consider strategies that could help sustain this work throughout the year so that Bullying Awareness and Prevention becomes a showcase week for all the great things happening all the time throughout the year.

Communications planning for Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Superintendent DeMille introduced Shelley Steele, Safe Schools Supervisor. She announced this year during Education Week it is also Child and Youth Counsellor Week and Mental Health Week. She talked about activities that schools have done in the past for Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. A list of ideas was distributed.

Shelley Steele asked the committee to talk about ideas they wished to do for Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, November 17 – 23, 2013 and perhaps all year long. Some of the ideas generated were:

- Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Pink T-shirt Day
- Assemblies for sexual orientation and sexual identity
- Assemblies in October and November on bullying
- Celebrate the Hero
- Buckets of compliments
- Secondary leadership classes going out to elementary schools to talk about bullying and the feeling of safety in their schools
- Respect Wall (people write what respect means to them and leave the wall up all year and students and staff can continually write on it)
- Can do wordels about respect and post all over the school
- Think before you speak contest

Shelley talked about what we can do to promote bullying awareness centrally this year. She mentioned the posters from last year which were laminated and could be re-used this year. Pencils and tattoos were ordered for students last year. There was a media launch at Deseronto Public School last year on the Monday of Bullying Awareness Week. Municipalities also proclaimed the third week in November Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.

It was the decision of this committee to

- continue with the slogan “Be Kind To Me”
- Trustee Goodfellow shared a poem she wrote on this topic.

Be Kind To Me

Be kind to me
For deep inside I am like you
We want success in what we do
Be kind to me
I sometimes fail to show respect
And I feel bad when I reflect
Be kind to me
If we both care and do what’s right
We can have fun and be polite.

- Discussions and decisions were also made with regard to keeping the “Be Kind To Me” graphic.
- It was mentioned that the pencils and tattoos were very expensive. This committee has no funds to support the expense.
- Bracelets were discussed as an alternative and would be much cheaper.
- Discussions rose around generating funds for expenses. Ideas centered on t-shirt sales and bracelet sales here at the education centre but supply bracelets to all students. School T-shirts were discussed and the decision would be left up to each school to order their own t-shirts perhaps with their school colours on them but with the “Be Kind To Me” logo on each shirt. (Dot will create a sample order form for schools to order from and will provide order instructions for schools).
- School/home involvement events will continue. The schools are doing a great job on their events and the way they recognize student strengths and achievements.
- Continue to supply community partners with promotional items.
- Do a/couple of media launch(s), perhaps linking a secondary school with a partnering elementary school(s).
- Have municipalities declare a proclamation about Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Kerry Donnell to write municipalities.
- Confirm a presentation with Michael Eisen, Founder of the Youth Wellness Network(November 20, 2013) Therese McMahon to organize with Kerry Donnell assisting.

Shelley Steele also mentioned that on October 9, 2013, at North Hasting High School, Wendy Sutherland will be presenting to Tri-Board bus drivers about Bullying Awareness and Prevention strategies.

A sub-committee was proposed to help promote ideas and suggestions for ongoing Bullying Awareness and Prevention throughout the year. The committee will consist of: Shelley Steele, Thelma Goodfellow, Erik Fetterley, Stephanie Taylor-Harvey, Therese McMahon and Melanie Crawford.

Superintendent DeMille thanked everyone for their commitment and dedication to this very important committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.