

Montgomery County School Health Council

March 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Gail Warner	Community Member, SHC Co-Chair	Daniel Russ	Community Member, SHC Co-chair
Chanel Speaks	EveryMind	Catie Russ	Student Member
Peter Park	MCPS Systemwide Safety	Stephanie Iszard	MCPS Stu & Family Engagement
Liz Elliott	MCDHHS School Health Services	Shaun Sawko	MCPS Food & Nutrition
Hannah Donart	MCCPTA Health & Wellness	Laura Stewart	MCCPTA Health & Wellness
Teresa Shatzer	MCPS Health Education	Laurie Lyons	MCPS Systemwide Safety
Kirsten Andersen	Linkages to Learning	Jessica Hasson	Community Member
Alana Aronin	Commission on Health	Sandy Salsberg	Community Member
Mark Hodge	MCDHHS School Health Services	Catherine Nardi	Community Member
Guests:	Brian Mullikin, MCPS Division of Sustainability & Compliance		

- The meeting was called to order by Gail Warner. Minutes from the December 2021 meeting were approved as amended.
- Brian Mullikin shared a briefing about the MCPS Drinking Water Testing Program. MCPS began testing water fixtures in the late 1980s and initiated a full testing program in 2004. Starting in 2018, MCPS began testing all drinking water outlets on a three-year cycle in response to a State mandate; all outlets were tested last in SY 2021-22. Drinking water outlets that exceed 5 parts per billion are taken out of service. Reports are available on the MCPS facilities website. In July 2021, an initiative to install two filtered water bottle filling stations at each school began. Locations for bottle filling stations are prioritized near the cafeteria and gyms. Bottle filling stations have been installed in all schools and retroactive work to install filters on existing stations and to replace water fountains and classroom bubblers with elevated lead levels is underway. If the replaced fixture tests “hot” after replacement, it is permanently taken out of service. WSSC has removed all lead from their system. MCPS also has water sourced from the City of Rockville and Poolesville.
- Shaun Sawko provided a briefing about MCPS Wellness initiatives. This school year, MCPS has a USDA waiver that allows for all students to receive free meals as a carry-over for the Seamless Summer Option. The waiver expires June 30th. The student debt policy and options for students without funds to cover the cost of a school meal are being evaluated. MCPS is exploring the DOD Fresh program to use commodity funds for fruits and vegetables for secondary schools with the goal of increasing variety. It is now in 30 schools with the goal to expand to all secondary schools. New initiatives include student focus groups, new recipe development with culturally appropriate options; new line signage to create more transparency with vegan, vegetarian, Kosher and Halal options.
- Stephanie Iszard shared an update about student COVID vaccinations. Her office has been involved with providing 29,731 student vaccinations focusing on Title 1 elementary schools to help close the equity gap. MCPS has partnered with the MCCPTA to bring students and families to school-located vaccination clinics.
- Mark Hodge shared School Health Services updates. Contact tracing continues in schools to help determine the impact of the lifting of the mask mandate. Staffing continues to be a challenge for School Health Services. Recruitment efforts are underway for 24 RN vacancies. Preferred criteria for school nurses has been shifted from 2 years of experience as an RN to 1 year of experience as an RN; training programs for new graduate nurses are being explored. Hiring and orientation programs are continuous. School Health Room Technician positions are being shifted to year-round to assist with staffing summer programs. In the FY 2023 budget, additional school nurse positions and additional mental health support for high schools are proposed.
- Membership & nomination: Co-chair Gail Warner is rotating out of the co-chair role after 6 years of services. The nominating committee of Liz Elliott, Catie Russ, Daniel Russ and Hannah Donart will assist in identifying a co-chair nominee.
- Discussion topics of interest to members for upcoming SHC meetings include exploring the impact of ADHD/autism students being seen repeatedly at the Crisis Center.
- School Health Council Meetings for SY 2021-2022: May 9, 2022