

**Subject:** Fwd: School Wellness  
**From:** Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 8/24/2023, 1:54 PM  
**To:** Lisa Zielinski <zielinskil@mokena159.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kelli MacMillan <[kellimacm@gmail.com](mailto:kellimacm@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 8:00 AM  
**Subject:** School Wellness  
**To:** Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>

Hi Eric,

You'd suggested yesterday that our policies are "guidelines" and that they do not dictate what needs to be done. I encourage you to continue to think of our policies similar to how your bank has policies and how they are implemented. Bank policies are not optional, they are necessary. Bank policies are not vague or better left not documented, it actually is the opposite from my experience in banking - there is a policy and procedure for everything. Public Education should work no different. Maybe talking with your compliance officer or bank president on this question might be insightful?

Our BOE policies are our directive to the Superintendent, this is his job to execute and our job to hold him accountable - policies are the vehicle to that. We can't have our Superintendent rationalize away why he doesn't need to be delivering what we've established in our policies, especially when many of them are tied to law.

Here is another policy that caught my eye, it is a snip from our School Wellness policy (6.5). This was one of the first topics I'd sent the BOE when I got elected. At that time, I also spoke to you about it and had asked when the last time we did a review of the nutritional value / food we serve, to which neither yourself or Jim could recall a time that was ever done. Jim has been on the BOE for 10 years and could not recall a time that was ever done. And yet, my suggestion was met with hostility in a closed session from 1 member of the BOE and no response from 3 others. I felt you seemed receptive at first, but not supportive in that closed session and then it seemed to die.

And now, I see we actually have a policy saying the BOE reviews the School Wellness (including food etc.) every three years. Not only that, but we are supposed to be including the community in that review every 3 years. See below.

## Monitoring

At least every three years, the Superintendent shall provide implementation data and/or reports to the Board concerning this policy's implementation sufficient to allow the Board to monitor and adjust the policy (a triennial report). This triennial report must include without limitation each of the following:

- An assessment of the District's implementation of the policy
- The extent to which schools in the District are in compliance with the policy
- The extent to which the policy compares to model local school wellness policies

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- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the policy
- How the District will make the results of the assessment available to the public
- Where the District will retain records of the assessment

The Board will monitor and adjust the policy pursuant to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

## Community Involvement

The Board and Superintendent will actively invite suggestions and comments concerning the development, implementation, periodic reviews, and updates of the school wellness policy from parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the community. Community involvement methods shall align their suggestions and comments to policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board* and/or the **Community Engagement** subhead in policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.

Can't we just agree to do this now, with the help of our community?

I hope we can get to the point that we have productive conversations with Dr. Cohen around how he can make things right (on the stage). Continuing to subscribe to "why we don't really need to be doing things" or "why we really don't need to be reporting things" is not the BOE doing our job and it is not what is best for the students. Doing the School Wellness review and getting our students and staff more nutritious meals in the process, is what is best for them, don't you agree? I implore you to ask people what they think about the lunches we serve. Ask your family / neighborhood kids. Would you want a pancake/sausage/ American cheese sandwich for lunch? Would you be happy as a teacher trying to teach after students each a cinnamon role and canned peas for lunch? What about the 8th grade boy and the Kindergarten boy getting the exact same serving size, are you happy with that? What staff members are happy with the food, this is what they are served also. Look at the pictures Dr. Shaw includes, they are horrid!

We can absolutely be doing better, let's just start now. Reminder: I already volunteered to chair a BOE committee on this topic.

More to come, have a good day,  
Kelli MacMillan