

Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force Meeting 1 Summary

On January 16th, 2018, the Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force met.

Overview

The Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force is a team of representatives from throughout the district who are charged with creating a proposal for the Strategic Planning Core Team. The work of the Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force will be accomplished when they have met these three outcomes:

1. Finalize the Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force Strategic Intent (5 year SMART Goal)
2. Rationales for the Social-Emotional Wellness Strategic Intent (Explanation as to why Social-Emotional Wellness should be a district priority)
3. Steps needed to achieve the goal for each year for the 5 years

Meeting Summary

The meeting began with introductions and reviewing the Rights and Responsibilities of the Task Force members. Each member is a representative who is there to represent the needs and thoughts of his/her constituency group and not him/herself. As such, the work done at the meetings is not private--it is public and meant to be shared and create a two-way venue for informing the plan.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the Strategic Intent (5 year SMART Goal) and to identify the rationales for the Strategic Intent.

After some discussion to ensure that the goal is Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely (SMART), the Task Force identified components that were important when thinking about what the district can and should achieve over the next five years. The Task Force at times grappled with the “newness” of our particular area when compared to the others. Essentially, developing a SMART goal was challenging when there had never before been such an intense focus on Social-Emotional Wellness.

Ultimately, the Task Force determined the Strategic Intent will be:

By 2022-2023 KenTon will provide the necessary staff, support, and structures so 85% of KenTon students will display improvement in social-emotional wellness as compared to our baseline measures.

Most of the meeting focused on reviewing the kinds of data that would support why Social-Emotional Wellness should be a district priority. These data included: a) the number of long-term suspensions, b) the disproportionality of both in-school and out-of-school suspensions, c) referrals to the Family Support Center, d) number of Family Support Center referrals that have reported 2+ incidents of trauma, e) use of restorative practices, etc. Finally, we discussed the current offerings that attempt to address Social-Emotional Wellness.

Based on these conversations, the following rationales were identified to support the district’s need to prioritize focusing on Social-Emotional Wellness over the next five years at least.

Rationale: In the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District students should have...

- Access to emotional supports they may not otherwise be able to benefit from if not in school.
- An opportunity to learn about the value of social-emotional health as a function of being a strong student.
- A system that uses both wellness and risk data in making decisions about necessary programming.
- Increased Social-Emotional Wellness at all levels because teachers at all levels are working with students who are experiencing significant social-emotional stress of various degrees and types.

Next Steps

Based on the progress of this meeting, the Task Force will meet again on February 8th to identify broad target areas for the eventual Action Plan and begin developing the Action Plan. In the meantime, the Task Force members are reading selected sections from the recent comprehensive issue of *Educational Leadership* that addresses Mental Health in Schools.

Sincerely,

Tom Horowitz

Larry Scott

Dina Ferraraccio

Christa Young

Betty Sullivan

Kelly Arroyo

Michele Melligan

Nicole Hoover

Ceil Bauer

Amber Dewey

Michael Lewis

Pat Kosis

Ann Blenk

Jan Cerra

Cathy Miller