

Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force Meeting 2 Summary

On February 8th 2018 the Social-Emotional Wellness Task Force met for the second time.

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 Task Force previously determined the Strategic Intent to 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.”* The team reviewed and agreed that the Strategic Intent should remain as is.

Much of the conversation and work of the second committee meeting related to the the need to have better information to make decisions and recommendations for the Strategic Plan Core group. For example, in other cases, pre-existing District Committees exist that have helped develop ideals, strategies, and recommendations for some of the Strategic Plan’s three pillars. As Social-Emotional Wellness is a relatively new priority and not one heavily embedded in curriculum and instruction it does not enjoy that pre-existing structure.

As such the committee focused on which kinds of data would need to be developed, and when, in order to inform the process and allow for data-based decisions and recommendations to be developed. Concern among Task Force members was noted as the 18/19 school year will likely result in activities focused on data gathering and analysis for recommendations rather than specific programs being recommended to start.

It was determined that a mix of several kinds of data would be necessary for informed decision making. Information that is already available, as well as data that does not currently exist, was discussed as a starting point.

The concept of “measuring wellness” was discussed at length. Wellness, for which many methods of measurement exist, is nebulous and often a composite of several indicators. The committee discussed how measures of social-emotional wellness could be measured by both improvement in some domains and reductions in others. An example would be to use suspension data (or a reduction in suspensions) to serve as an indicator of “wellness.” Similarly, if students are more socially and emotionally well they are likely to attend school more frequently, thus our attendance rates would be a data point to consider.

Alternatively, reductions in health and wellness risk factors was also discussed. Use of data that allows for comparison across places and time is preferred. As a result the nationally-recognized Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was discussed at length. While not an indicator of wellness directly, several of the factors of the YRBS would, over-time, show reductions in risk if social-emotional wellness programming was implemented.

Next Steps

Based on the progress of this meeting, the Task Force will meet again on Monday March 12th to review and identify specific measures and data points that we would like to recommend to the core Strategic Plan

committee. These surveys and data points would serve to establish a baseline with which we could then measure progress towards our Smart Goal while also helping make informed program and staff recommendations.

Sincerely,

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