

NEWKIRK HIGH SCHOOL: Safe and Healthy Wellness School Committee Meeting

September 27, 2023

Chair: Patty Rowe, Counselor

Members: Cathy Harmon-HS Principal, Diana Vaughan-teacher, Robin Johnson-secretary, Leona Duncan-Cafeteria, Stephanie Stone-parent, Kevin Main-Newkirk Police Chief, Elliott Lindsey-Deputy Sheriff, Kristyn Flanery & Liam Hilton-students

Meeting Time: 2:15 pm – 3:10 pm

1. **Review of last year's minutes**
2. **COVID-19** Contingency plan in place; no longer published on website. No contact tracing required.
3. **Human Trafficking** Continue posting hotline numbers in restrooms. Hwy I-35, but low percentage in Kay County as reported by Deputy Lindsey. Chinese organized crime with marijuana grows. Involvement more through a student's lifestyle. Student gets in and then doesn't know how to get out. Deputy Lindsey mentioned a program through Kaw Nation and would try to get us some information.
4. **Suicide & Bullying prevention** Continue posting hotline numbers in restrooms. Possibility of having an assembly was mentioned, but concerns were voiced of possible resulting consequences.
5. **Social media/Vaping & Drugs** Detectors currently in place; discussion of Kirk Johnston fabricating cages for detectors. Suggestion of bringing back the D.A., and various law enforcement to present an assembly on social media like they did years ago. Possibly every other year have "Light of Hope".
6. **School Security** School receiving grant money to increase school security. Schools will have bullet resistant film placed on glass, this film prevents those who are outside from seeing into the building, but those inside can still see out. Suggestion of teacher door handles being changed out so they can be locked from the inside with a push button instead of locking with their key on the outside of the door. Suggestion of checking into possibly using staff ID cards (provided yearly through Jostens) as key cards to access the building due to doors being found unlocked during school days, evenings, and weekends. The use of key cards or fobs has been presented in the past, but monies were not available. Amount of grant money available for added security was not known at this time. Dr. Harmon will check into this with Mr. Overstreet, Superintendent. Deputy Scott King suggested an active shooter training class for teachers/staff, called "CRAZE". Training possibly during Professional Day in February, and will last 2.5 - 3 hours. **Kristyn Flanery, senior, emailed Dr. Harmon on a concern regarding the bullet resistant film being installed on windows in classrooms, it would make it impossible for anyone to escape through the windows.*
7. **Health / Wellness Committee Policy** Mrs. Johnson provided/reviewed the written policy, and discussed policy for any changes needed. Newkirk has been certified the last three years. Newkirk Schools will be participating in the National Walk to School Day on October 4th. Students will start at Mark Branch Fieldhouse and extra security will be provided by local law enforcement. The Ala carte is doing well this year with additional new items on the menu. NPS received a \$25K grant to purchase fruits & vegetables for the elementary school. The school will spend money locally for those food items.
8. **Other items** Discussion of how vaping is handled out in the community for under age students, not arrested but given a citation. Fentanyl is growing problem. Seized Methamphetamine tested positive for Fentanyl. Speckled drugs indicated Fentanyl.

Liam Hilton asked if the DARE program was still be used. Deputy Lindsey reported that it is in place at the Middle School. He also mentioned possible use of the Drinking while driving simulator for use in Driver's Ed class.

Kristyn Flanery reported that over 90% of the high school students currently vape, and that last year most of the students at PTC vape. This number was higher than realized by staff.