

# Sex Education Advisory Board Meeting

## Virtual Meeting - Zoom

### October 21, 2021

1) **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Melissa Fore at 6:34 PM

#### 2) **Membership Roll Call and Introduction of New and Returning Members**

Members present: Mary Ellen Vrbanac, Danny Hearit, Melissa Fore, Diane Tuinstra, Amy Bigman, Anne Scott, Morgan Doherty, Seth Eckel, Glenn Mitcham, Megan Maas, Steve Kwasnik, Sara Smith, Jonathan Gold, Maria Piloto

Guest: Ashley Ahlin

#### 3) **Approval/Additions to the Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda with the proposed changes to add the section "Overview of the Michigan Law and BOE Policies" after public comment was made by Danny Hearit and seconded by Steve Kwasnik. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4) **Public Comment:**

- No Comment

#### 5) **Overview of the Michigan Law and BOE Policies**

- Covered the HIV & sex ed law and policies for existing and new members.
- Notes were made about how we cannot advise/talk about abortion as form of family planning or reproductive healthcare, and our education has to have an emphasis on abstinence. Both required by law.
- No questions were asked.

#### 6) **Presentations/Committee Reports**

##### a. Sex Ed Director Report

- Easier-to-find link to the minutes from this SEAB on the ELPS website should now be available.
- HIV and sex education was done in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels last year. The current HIV videos need updating and is one of our new business items tonight.

#### 8) **Unfinished Business**

##### a. Review 2021-2022 Goals.

- See SEAB Goals 2021/22 below.
- Notes were made about how there were a lot of goals and identified priority goals.
- Addition were identified:
  - MiPHY year where the survey of 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders happens and we review that data and that data should be an ongoing goal. MiPHY looks at student behaviors, modeled after the CDC's YRBS.
  - Add review of SEAB By-Laws to ongoing goals.
- A question was asked by Maria, our new junior student member: "What adjustments/advancements have already been put in place? What do they look like in the school setting?" - There are many but here are the highlights:
  - Updated media content (videos)

- Inclusive of LGBTQ in all lessons
  - Updated special education Sex Ed
- b. Intersex Inclusivity Starting in 4th and 5th Grade Curriculum
- Subcommittee was created to finish up this work with membership of: Melissa Fore, Jonathan Gold, Mary Ellen Vrbanac, Danny Hearit and potentially a guest parent member.
  - The subcommittee's work includes:
    - At what grade do we introduce the word Intersex.
    - Specific language to be included during reproductive anatomy lessons

## 9) New Business

- a. New Puberty: The Wonder Years Curriculum
- Will review once it is available.
- b. Michigan Model HIV Videos
- Reviewed new video on HIV education: "HIV and Me, Marissa's Story"
  - Current video is dated and we are looking to update it. It had an abstinence only message, lacking in suppressed/controlled HIV transmission data and messaging.
  - Looking into if this new video can be done at all levels, but we also know that some information may create more questions than answers at younger levels.
  - Being a child with HIV can really make poor and outdated messaging around HIV really harmful for those children and their families.
  - Most comments were positive towards the video and included but not limited to:
    - Shared positive messaging that it is safe to be around people with HIV
    - Dispels a lot of common myths about HIV and attempts to destigmatize people with HIV.
    - This video would be given as a part of a 45 minute lesson wherein the teachers are HIV certified.

Amy Bigman motioned to approve the new video on HIV education: "HIV and Me, Melissa's Story" for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Danny Hearit seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## 11) Announcements

Next meeting November 18, 2021 6:30 PM

## 12) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Bigman and seconded by Jonathan Gold. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Note: The March meeting minutes were approved via email vote and thus do not appear on this agenda as requiring a vote of approval.

**Minutes Approved via Email: 11-1-21**

## **SEAB Goals 2021/22:**

**Note:** \* Indicates priority goal.

- \* Include intersex education along with reproductive anatomy at all levels.
- \* Review and evaluate the 4th and 5th grade curricula and materials, *including Puberty: The Wonder Years Revised 2021*. Make updates as recommended. Include general consent (non-sexual) content if not already taught in Second Step.
- \* Review updated Michigan Model HIV videos and decide whether to recommend them for approval.
- Evaluate consent content in the current curriculum for middle school and add content to increase skills in preventing relationship violence.
- Evaluate current content on sexual representation in media and determine need for added content in relationship to pornography. Add age-appropriate content, as recommended. Explore providing a parent informational session on adolescents and porn.
- Obtain teacher resources on trauma informed sex education and inform teachers.

## **ONGOING:**

- Use the adopted curriculum evaluation tool that includes criteria for representation and inclusion of a diverse student body in a meaningful and positive manner, when adding content to present curriculum and evaluating new curricula.
- Monitor participation in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Health Review Workshop. Make adjustments as needed.
- Identify parent education methods and resources to support sex education at home. Link parents to these resources and supports.
- Identify topics in the curriculum that could benefit from having guest speakers. Consider guest speakers to recommend for BOE approval.
- The East Lansing Sex Education Director, in conjunction with the SEAB, will update the Sexual Health Education Handbook available on the ELPS website a minimum of once a year.
- Review SEAB By-Laws every three years.
- Use information from current MiPHY Survey to review and adjust curriculum as indicated.

## **Possible additional goal areas:**

- More LGBTQ content (asexual/unromantic, connecting transgender students to professional support & resources, pronouns, gender spectrum, safe sex)
- Gender in consent
- Sexual abuse prevention