

HSAC Minutes: June 1, 2016

Attendance: Michael Kascak, Debbie Greiff, Nikki Amara Myers, George Goneconto, Andrew Hall, Timothy McDonald, Rebecca Young, Dave Offer, and Shelly Santaniello.

Minutes: (HSAC members only)

1. Tim McDonald, Director of Public Health reported that two water fountains, in Mrs. Geary's and Mrs. Santaniello's rooms, had been replaced due to lead readings above the 10 parts per billion action level set by NPS. (The accepted action level is 15 ppb but Needham has more stringent standards.)
2. There may be lead in the fixtures but not in the pipes. The water supply in Needham has historically been great. It may be in fixtures because they were soldered with lead.
3. On May 31, there was a meeting at Town Hall to discuss this "lead" issue. The town will apply for a grant to test every water source in all public schools this summer.
4. Rebecca Young commented that if the replaced fountains are "clean" the next time they're tested, then maybe all old fixtures need to be replaced.
5. The new protocol for testing these fixtures is a "first draw" sample and then a "midstream" sample. The committee also discussed a possible school policy where all fountains and sinks should be flushed for 30 seconds every Monday.
6. Parents will be informed about this issue through the LISTSERV and the Hillside Newsletter. Michael Kascak will emphasize the proactive stance of the Town.
7. Tim McDonald gave HSAC members his contact info. He will send a revised informational letter to members for comments and edits by Friday, June 3.

Part 2: ALICE informational meeting with Hillside Parents:

ALICE = Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate

1. Chant List began by summarizing the two teacher-training sessions where teachers watched videos, did tabletop activities, and practiced different intruder scenarios. Tomorrow, students will meet with Needham police officers and discuss the ALICE protocol. Then, in September, students and staff will practice different intruder scenarios.

2. Chanit also presented an ALICE slide show. The main idea: an active response to an intruder is much more effective than a lockdown, where students and staff are “sitting ducks.” Chief Schlitzer emphasized that staff members need to act as first responders because police, who often come in 3-5 minutes, usually arrive after the event is over.
3. We’ll teach students to listen to their teacher, who may ask them to barricade the door, or evacuate, depending on the information given. We will **not** teach students to “counter,” or fight the intruder.
4. We won’t announce codes when practicing ALICE scenarios. Codes can be confusing to visitors in the building. Specific information will be given over the intercom.
5. If a real ALICE situation occurs, a Reverse 911 will be used to inform parents. Students will be dismissed from our evacuation site, The Needham Senior Center.
5. We also discussed some safety gadgets being used, or that we’d like to purchase in the future. Examples: bungee cords, window punches, and Night Locks for doors.
6. One parent asked: What can we do to help prepare our kids? Answer: Give your kids options of where to run outdoors in case he/she is asked to evacuate quickly. Also, advise them about what we’ll be practicing in September. Tell them there’s no set routine, like in a fire drill.
7. Another parent asked about kids with anxiety issues. Counselors and teachers will be observing these students as we practice ALICE. We will follow up with those who have difficulty. We have to do the actual training to see who will need assistance, and how we can improve our approach with such students.

Minutes submitted by Shelly Santaniello, 8/28/16.