

Cranston Educational Advisory Board

November 2, 2009

**7:00 PM Cranston East Media Center
Meeting Minutes**

Represented:

Arlington, Barrows, Dutemple, Eden Park, Garden City, Glen Hills, Hope Highlands, Orchard Farms, Rhodes, Stadium, Stone Hill, Woodridge, Bain, Park View, Western Hills, Cranston East, CPSED, School Committee, Title 1/CFC

Agenda:

The CEAB was called to order by John Dietrich at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes:

Andre Araujo moved to accept the minutes of the October meeting. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Guest Speaker:

Deborah Svitil, Program Supervisor of Nursing Services gave a presentation on H1N1.

- H1N1 is a respiratory illness spread by cough/sneeze droplets/ hand to face contact
- Virus survives only 2-3 hours on surfaces
- Incubation period 3-4 days as little as 1 as long as 7 days
- Contagious 1 day before symptoms appear- 10 days after symptoms appear. Most contagious when running fever.
- Symptoms: fever & sore throat. Other symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle and joint aches, headache, nausea.
- Affects primarily children age 0-4 and 5-24. Much less prevalent over 25, another big drop off over 49.
- Persons at greatest risk: pregnant women, immunocompromised, diabetes, respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, cerebral palsy.
- Health experts predict 30-50% of population will become sick with H1N1. Most will have a full recovery.
- There will be enough vaccine for everyone eventually.
- Health Dept not expecting to advise school closings except for operational reasons.
- To protect against H1N1: wash hands often with soap and warm water or Purel, cough/sneeze into elbow, keep hands away from face, eat healthy diet (vitamin C helps boost immune system), stay away from sick people, get flu vaccine.
- If you get sick: Stay at home for at least 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medicine, drink plenty of fluids, wash hands often, avoid contact with people who are not sick, call your doctor if you have a chronic health condition, call your doctor if getting better then suddenly your condition worsens. No aspirin for people under 18 (risk of Reye's syndrome).

- H1N1 vaccine is manufactured like seasonal flu vaccine, 10 years and older require only one dose, under 10 years will get 2 doses at least 30 days apart. Vaccine campaign starting with pregnant women and children up to 18 years old
- Where to get vaccine: pregnant women at birthing hospital/ children 0-5 pediatrician's office/ school age (K-12) at school clinics. Elementary school clinics after school, middle and high school clinics during school hours. Free and voluntary. Students will be vaccinated only in school they attend. If they can't attend the clinic, should get vaccine through pediatricians' office. Only injectable form- no nasal spray. Home schooled children should go to school they would be attending if they attended public school.
- Consent forms have been or will be mailed from Dept of Health, also available at your child's school and on-line at the Dept of Health. Need to be filled out completely including section 2 and return to school nurse as soon as possible. If declining vaccination send note to nurse- will be calling parents they have not heard from.
- All school communities are requested to submit attendance information to Dept of Ed daily. (may be on the dept of education website)
- For more information:

RI Dept of Health
 Flu information line: 222-8022
www.health.ri.gov

Federal Government
www.flu.gov

Cranston Public school
www.cpsed.net

Presentation will be made available on CEAB website

Q: What about children who show up on the day of the clinic with a signed consent form? Will be able to be vaccinated as long as supply is adequate. (Principal at Chester Barrows has told parents that if consent form not sent in at least 2 days in advance, child will not be able to get vaccine.)

Q: How is the clinic being handled to manage large numbers of students? At the school's discretion... some are handling different grades at different times.

Q: If one child in a family sick should siblings stay home from school? No.

Treasurer's Report:

There have been no expenses or income since last month's report. The balance remains \$530.48.

School Committee Report:

1. Caroulo: Supreme court has not yet issued its decision... hopefully by end of year.
2. Busing contract: State didn't want Cranston in the program, previous superintendent got us into the program. State promised \$600,000 in savings, lucky if we'll see \$200,000. (any child living in Cranston but attending out of Cranston is transported by state.
3. Volunteer policy: Superintendent requesting feedback on how volunteer policy is working
4. Subcommittee formed on sex offenders, public safety. CEAB seat needs to be filled. Kerri Kelleher volunteered to represent CEAB.
5. Relay for Life: June 4-5 at Bain. Raise money for cancer research. Perhaps schools or PTGHs could form teams to support.

School Administration Report:

- Focus on Science curriculum: Cadre of teachers meeting monthly supported by science grant from Dana Center. Looking at NECAP scores in science, GLEs, GSEs, where kids are failing and how they can improve. Integrating math and science into all topics. Elementary teachers in the group going back to train the other teachers in their schools.
- Thinking Math: teachers getting trained.
- Supervising program supervisors in social studies, math, English and science (k-12). Working to define their roles.
- Had EPIC Advisory Board meeting. Looking at ways to get more kids involved. Can it be revamped to include more kids.
- Serving on PDI group (professional development institute). Trying to get reinstated (teachers can get training on line).

Q: Will state initiative on seniority system impact Cranston? No. Only impacts those whose contracts are up for negotiation. Would require a legislative change.

Q: Will kindergarten report cards be changed to reflect how kids are doing in social studies and science? Will take that question back to the Superintendent.

Old Business:

- Technical Amendments to by-laws
Andrea Iannazzi moved for a 2nd vote on technical amendment to by-laws.
Amendment was approved
- Parent Resource event: Maureen Greaves announced that a parent resource event has been scheduled at Garden City, April 17th, 12-4. Variety of health and safety vendors, activities for kids including bike safety, safe kids ids. Free, family fun day. Flier will be available in February or March.
- December speaker will have to be changed (see new business). Original December speaker (Laura Albanese) will be moved to January.

New Business:

- Annual request letter for \$25 donation is about to go out to PTO/PTGH presidents. Largely used for copies, mailings, etc.
- December Speaker: Does a subcommittee have a speaker they would like to have come in for the December meeting? One thought was to have Dr. Mike from New England Laborer's charter school and Sue Coutu from the career and technical school to talk about the different high school programs we offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

The next scheduled meeting is Monday December 7, 2009 in the media center of Cranston East.