



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
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Wellness Committee
Smart Choices Meeting Summary
April 15, 2026 | 3:30–4:00 PM
Location: Google Meet

Attendees:

Mary Ellen Fox, Michaela Burr, Brittney Hirschauer, Sara Stenger, Kassy Podvin, Deanna Gronseth, Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp Herman, Melissa Millner

1. SHIP Grant Update

- Acoustic panels are currently being installed in the middle school cafeteria to improve sound quality and the overall dining environment.
- The SHIP grant funded approximately 400 panels, while an estimated 1,700 panels are needed to fully address the space.
- Additional grant opportunities will be explored to help support completion of the project.

3. The Student Wellness Survey, Parent, and Staff Surveys

- Surveys will be administered in May 2026.
- Communication will be shared through the *Raider Update*, and PDF versions will be made available for parents to review in advance if desired.
- Survey questions are age-appropriate and were developed locally in Hastings with input from school principals.
- Questions were refined last year to improve clarity and response quality.
- Survey results are compiled into a report presented to the School Board and posted on the district website in compliance with MDE requirements.
- Due to the complexity of compiling end-of-year data, the report timeline has shifted from June to August.

4. Vape Waste Awareness Event

- A Vape Waste Collection and Awareness Event will be held at the high school on May 6, 2026.
- The event aligns with Earth Day initiatives and aims to raise awareness about the environmental impact of vape battery waste in landfills. A five gallon bucket full was collected last year.
- Students may anonymously turn in vapes/tobacco products to Dakota County employees during this event.

5. Upcoming Meeting

- **Wellness Committee Meeting:** October 21, 2026
 - Time: 3:30–4:00 PM
 - Location: Google Meet