



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Food Service Task Force Committee Regular Meeting Minutes July 12, 2023

Meeting held Zoom

I. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Dr. Yarborough III.

Attendees: Dr. Orlando Yarborough III, Chair; Mr. Wilcox, Vice-Chair; (New) Mr. Baron Young, *Food Service Director; Mr. Thomas Lamb; Ms. Jennifer Punzo, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas, Ms. Aly Fox and Mr. Mike Degen, Community Impact Manager with United Way of Greater New Haven.

II. Introductions: Dr. Yarborough welcomes and introduces the new Food Services Director for the district to the Committee, Mr. Baron Young.

III. Food Allergy Plan Review: Mr. Lamb states that he has met with Mr. Young and the rest of the Food Service team to not only welcome him to the team but to also bring his attention to items such as this that will need review. There were some comments brought up by members that may need revision. We are currently pooling those comments for edits into the plan to present to the committee a draft available to be brought to the group.

Ms. Yarborough inquires what the timeline for the postage of this needs to be, Mr. Lamb answers that the information should be posted by August prior to the start of school. Mr. Wilcox adds that there is a provision in the policy which states this allergy policy should be posted to the NHPS website as well as each of the individual schools' websites as well. This year we need to look to ensure that those postings are in place as required. Mr. Lamb will work on this.

IV. Update on Plan for Expanding Access to Locally-Grown, Healthy, Sustainable Food, Decreasing Packaging waste, and increasing opportunities for food donation, food rescue, and composting:

Dr. Yarborough states that some schools have already taken initiative in this regard and the efforts by Mr. Lambs team to have a coordinated plan to implement in conjunction with community partners. The Board has implemented a climate policy which includes provisions on food and sustainability.

Mr. Lambs adds that he will be working with Mr. Young to ensure now that a new food service director has begun. To work on a plan for the committee in the coming weeks to get to where we need to be which will include benchmarks for meeting expectations throughout this program and what goals will look like. We have also been approached by DEEP for composting programs and compliance requirements to ensure we're meeting those, which should be integrated as well.

Mr. Punzo adds that there was a meeting last month with the Food service director at the time and Mr. Winter from the Center of Ecotechnology, where it was discussed doing a pilot with about 5 schools to begin with is their recommendation. As well as there are 3 schools already that are doing composting through student sponsorship on their own.

Dr. Yarborough adds to the topic stating that we should establish a score sheet that relates to all the topics in questions. To have a more accurate representation of what the district currently does to better identify where the gaps are in terms of where we hope to be. Implementation of certain areas should be done by sometime next year.



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V. Updates from Food Gap Subgroup:

Mr. Degen states that the next meeting scheduled for the Food Gap Subgroup is for next week on July 18, 2023 at noon to start preparing for the August Distribution which will be Mr. Young's introduction to that group.

VI. Other Business:

Dr. Yarborough inquired on the Summer Meals status or highlights so far this year to note.

Ms. Punzo states that the distribution for last week of June was approximately 7,200 breakfast and 10,000 lunches which is a great turnout.

Adjournment:

On the Motion by Dr. Yarborough to adjourn, at 5:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Salina Manning

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Executive Administrative Assistant