



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

January 8, 2020

The meeting was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, Gateway Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 54 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06519.

Present: Mr. Matt Wilcox, Mr. Michael Pinto, Ms. Jennifer Allis-Vazquez, Ms. Lihame Arouna, Mr. Austin Bryniarski, Ms. Melody Gallagher, Ms. Susan Harris, Mx. Adrian Huq, Ms. Lashawn Lewis, Ms. Michelle Lee Rodriguez, Ms. Latha Swamy.
Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry, Mr. Danny Gant.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Matt Wilcox called the meeting to order.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Wilcox welcomed the committee and all attendees. Attendees and members of the committee took turns at introducing themselves. Mr. Bryniarski announced that the New Haven Food Policy Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:00 p. m. in City Hall.
- III. **REVIEW and APPROVAL of PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes will be submitted to the committee via email after the meetings. A response will be needed within 1 week if corrections need to be made. Minutes will be prepared, posted, and added to Board of Education full meeting packets for meetings held on the 2nd Monday in each month. The committee will be keeping track of items to add to the agendas of upcoming monthly Food Service Task Force meetings. No corrections were needed to the current minutes.
- IV. **CLARIFICATION of OFFICIAL MEMBERS of FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE:**

From the Committee Charge: Composed of the Superintendent of Schools or her designee, the food service director, two parents, two students, two representatives of food advocacy groups, and two BOE members appointed by the BOE president. It was recommended to include the Director of Public Health Nursing and teacher representation. It was proposed that Latha Swamy be added as a separate entity. Mr. Wilcox suggested getting clarification of who the parents, students, and food advocacy groups are and will present the above recommendations to the BOE to add other members/groups to the Food Service Task Force.

V. CHOCOLATE MILK PILOT for HIGH SCHOOLS:

The chocolate milk pilot started on January 8, 2020 and will run through June 2020. Chocolate milk is not authorized to be sold ala carte and will be offered at the high schools on Wednesdays and Fridays during lunch. Milk consumption will be monitored and data showing any changes in milk consumption and waste will be collected.

VI. FOOD ADVISORY MEETINGS

Managers have held a few food advisory meetings and more have been scheduled. These meetings are held monthly to discuss food issues including menus and menu related issues. During the meetings managers explain federal rules, regulations, the 5 components to a meal and why students must take 3 components of the meal including 1 which must be a fruit or vegetable. Typically, the meetings involve a food service manager, the food service building cook lead, a school administrator, and several students from the school. The school principal designates students to the meetings.

VII. FOOD SERVICE QUESTIONS for 2020 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

The committee suggested the following questions be placed on the 2020 School Climate Survey:

1. Which meals do you utilize? Please check all that apply.
Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snacks, Summer Meals.
2. Overall, how would you rate the taste of the food in the cafeteria?
3. How satisfied are you with the food portions?

In addition, the committee would like to include a question regarding the cafeteria environment under the building category.

2019 Questions for Reference:

1. How often do you eat food from the cafeteria?
2. Overall, how would you rate the taste of the food in the cafeteria?
3. How satisfied are you with the food portions?

VIII. STUDENT CONCERNS of CAFETERIA FOOD WASTE, COMPOSTING, and PLASTIC USE:

Center for Eco Technology in partner with Southern Central Regional Council of Governments has received an EPA grant called Healthy Communities and is reaching out to New Haven County to pilot a free program for food waste diversion and organic waste management at one school in New Haven. A meeting has been scheduled for January 16, 2020 with Center for Eco Technology. A student stated that Metropolitan Business Academy would be willing to pilot the program. Ms. Sharry has reached out to

the City of New Haven regarding recycling options and is waiting for a response. A discussion ensued about food waste and prevention.

- IX. SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM:** Meetings have been set up for the Summer Meals Program and a Summer Meals Guide is being created by the Food Policy Council. Work continues in the areas of closing gaps, collaborations, partnerships, and getting more input from the school system to spread the information to parents and students about the summer meals program.
- X. SNAP ADVOCACY UPDATE:** New SNAP guidelines take effect 4/01/2020. It is unknown the number of families this will impact. Some families will no longer be eligible for the SNAP program. Ms. Sharry stated that this change will not affect schools and children who receive free meals in New Haven Public Schools immediately but will in 3 years. The immediate concern is for the wellbeing of families and how the impact could carry over into the schools. Mr. Wilcox suggested ways to be proactive to reach out to state delegation and advocate to express concerns of the impact these guidelines will have on families.
- XI. UPDATE on DISCUSSION ABOUT DEADLY ALLERGIES and ISSUES RELATED to FOOD SERVICE:** During their last meeting, the Governance Committee identified several areas of gaps, advances in PowerSchool to better track students, identified after school gaps, and factored in transportation in ways to prevent exposure to food allergens. The Director of Public Health Nursing will meet with the Association of School Nursing of Connecticut on 1/9/2020 and will inquire about ways to quickly identify students in the lunch line. The Food Task Force is considering suggestions from parents such as using wrist bands to identify students coming through the lunch line.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 5:00 p. m. in Gateway Center, 5th Floor Conference Room 5B, 54 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06519. Agenda items are due to chair by 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 6, 2020.

- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.