



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

February 10, 2021

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Mr. Matt Wilcox, Mr. Larry Conaway, Ms. Kimberly Acosta, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas, Ms. Salina Manning, Ms. Latha Swamy, Ms. Maren Tornay, Ms. Ivelise Velazquez, Ms. Nijija-lfe Waters
Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry, Daniel Shields

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Food Service Task Force was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Larry Conaway.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Conaway introduced himself. Afterward, attendees and members of the committee took turns introducing themselves. There were no announcements.
- III. **UPDATE ON THE URBAN AGRICULTURE MASTER PLAN PROJECT:** The Food System Policy Division for the City of New Haven has received a grant from the new office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. The purpose of this project is to develop New Haven's first Urban Agriculture Master Plan and create an enabling and equitable environment for urban agricultural growth in New Haven. The Food System Policy Division has a set of guiding values around equity, community ownership, and specifically protection against gentrification and displacement in particular communities. The core of this grant is about eliminating regulatory resource and information barriers to engage in urban agriculture. The project is at the point of launching the first piece of the grant which is focused on the community ownership piece. The project will be done in conjunction with a community advisory board (CAB) made up of approximately 60 individuals. Applications for the community advisory board (CAB) will be released soon and will be available in multiple languages. The goal of the CAB will be to create an environment that will support all residents so they can benefit from urban agriculture and its positive health, social, economic, and environmental impacts. One of the main focuses will be on working with people from communities who experience injustice, have less access to resources and opportunities, and making sure everyday residents are engaged and feel that they have the knowledge

and access to participate in this process. The CAB will consist of up to 60 individuals, split into 4 groups with different areas of expertise specifically youth experts who will range in ages 14-22 years of age, neighborhood experts, urban farming experts which would include backyard and community gardeners, and community health experts. This is a 3-year community-based planning process in which CAB members will be paid \$25 per hour and it would be beneficial to see members commit to the 3 years. The Food System Policy Division for the City of New Haven appreciates the New Haven Board of Education's help in spreading the word of the application process.

- IV. UPDATE of POLICIES 3542.33 AND 3542.42:** Review of policies continue to be on-going and will stay on the agenda for future meetings. No updates have happened since the last meeting.

- V. UPDATE ON FOOD SERVICE DURING REMOTE LEARNING:** It was reported that approximately ninety-five percent of in-person learning students are participating in the lunch and breakfast program. Roughly 900-1,200 meals are distributed during the 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. daily meals distribution, around 4,200-4,550 meals are distributed weekly during the Friday meal box distribution, and about 350-525 meal boxes are delivered on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays via Food Service van/bus. Meals continue to be served Monday through Friday via The Supper Program at 19 locations. There has been an increase in participation from learning hubs and daycare centers. Information on food distribution options is sent to parents and students via phone call, text, and email. It is also posted at schools, on the NHPS website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The New Haven Public Schools Lunch Challenge is located on Google Classroom to promote continued involvement in the lunch program.

- VI. UPDATE ON FOOD SERVICE DURING IN-PERSON LEARNING INCLUDING STUDENTS with LIFE THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES:** There are no updates on this agenda item currently.

- VII. UPDATE ON LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES and ISSUES RELATED TO FOOD SERVICE:** Building plans are in place for students with life threatening food allergies. Information was provided by parents and communicated to nurses. Nurses shared this information with principals, teachers, Food Services and provided updated food allergy lists to Food Services prior to students' return to in-person learning. This list was shared with Food Services staff members and has been implemented. It was determined that an interim meeting with appropriate Food Service Task Force members will be held to discuss this line item within the coming weeks prior to the next Food Service Task Force meeting. This agenda item is on-going and will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON MARCH AGENDA ITEMS:

The March agenda will include updates on most of the current agenda items. Food Service Task Force members and guest will email any additional requests for the March meeting to the Chair (Mr. Matt Wilcox) and Co-Chair (Mr. Larry Conaway).

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:00 p. m. via Zoom. Agenda items are due to the Chair (Mr. Matt Wilcox) and Co-Chair (Mr. Larry Conaway) by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m. by Mr. Larry Conaway.