



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

December 11, 2019

The meeting was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 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. Nijija-Ife Waters. Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry, Mr. David Gelinas.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Matt Wilcox called the meeting to order.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Wilcox welcomed the committee. Ms. Sharry announced that two USDA food inspectors toured and visually inspected Central Kitchen for food safety on December 11, 2019.
- 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.

IV. CHOCOLATE MILK PILOT for HIGH SCHOOLS:

The Board of Education approved the chocolate milk pilot for high schools. The pilot will start the week of January 6, 2020 and will run through June 2020. Chocolate milk 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.

V. FOOD ADVISORY MEETINGS

Monthly Food Advisory meetings have started. Typically, the meetings involve a food service manager, the food service building cook lead, a school administrator, and several students from the school. These meetings are held to discuss food issues including

menus and menu related issues. It was recommended to have some of the students who have restricted diets attend the meetings if possible.

VI. FOOD SERVICE QUESTIONS for 2020 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

The committee will soon need to have questions ready for the 2020 School Climate Survey. During future meetings it will be decided what questions and the number of questions that will be asked on the 2020 School Climate Survey. The committee needs to know what types of questions are possible based on survey formatting.

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?

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

BOE student member, Lihame Arouna, discussed student concerns regarding food waste, composting, and plastic use in the cafeterias. A discussion ensued, including talk about piloting some projects in the district and seeing what the best practices are. There was a discussion about reaching out to Yale as they have made changes in these areas in their food service that is apparently yielding results.

VIII. UPDATE on DISCUSSION ABOUT DEADLY ALLERGIES and ISSUES RELATED to FOOD SERVICE: Ms. Sharry and Ms. Jennifer Allis-Vazquez met with the NHPS IT department in PowerSchool to work out a way to quickly gain specific medical information that is needed. PowerSchool is working on a plan for identifying allergies that require the use of an EpiPen. They added EpiPen, anaphylaxis trigger, and food allergy checkboxes to the database. Accessibility will be in the nurse information and customs screens. PowerSchool is currently working on a complete alert icon and other ways to utilize PowerSchool to help with allergy information especially when new children register in the district. Mr. Wilcox would like to know what status of user would be able to access the information. A discussion ensued about closing gaps and ways to ensure that all involved will have the information needed to keep allergens away from students and how to respond to a reaction/anaphylaxis within Headstart, School Readiness, Pre-K, and afterschool programs. Mr. Wilcox asked for a listing of policy and procedure changes that have been made this year and ways to ensure these changes are constantly implemented.

IX. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Agenda items are due to chair by 10am Friday, January 3, 2020.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.