



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Connecticut**

**Food Service Task Force Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
Meeting held via Zoom**

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**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM by Mr. Matt Wilcox.

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**Attendees:** Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Mr. Thomas Lamb, Dr. Michael Finley, Mr. Baron Young, Ms. Jennifer Punzo, Ms. Krina Byrd, Mr. Mike Degen, Ms. Susan Harris

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**II. Introductions and Announcements:** Attendees introduced themselves. There were no announcements.

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**III. Food Service Update:** The official state review is scheduled from December 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> and is currently underway. An update will be provided during the January meeting.

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**IV. Food Allergy Plan Review:** This agenda item is in progress. The next step is notifying the Board of Education and getting the plan posted on the website.

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**V. 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**

Mr. Lamb is working with Trifecta on obtaining a new grant application for High School in the Community to do a hydroponic-based container farming project. In addition, Mr. Lamb has met with Sarah Kiehl and the team at Yale Hospitality to discuss a collaboration with New haven Public Schools Food Service Department. Discussions include:

- a. Training
- b. Resource sharing
- c. Exploring various opportunities/collaborations
- d. Food Service Needs



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**VI. Updates from Food Gap Subgroup:**

Ms. Harris announced the new name for this group will be School Break Groceries and named the four sites that will be used for food distribution during the December School Recess. Due to rising food costs, a total of 500 bags/125 bags per site will be distributed. Information will be distributed to families via New Haven Public Schools automated calls, signs, and flyers. Distribution will be at the following sites on December 27, 2023 from 3:00PM-5:00PM:

- Truman School, 114 Truman Street
- Lincoln Bassett School, 21 Butler Street
- The Shack (West Hills Community Center), 333 Valley Street
- John Martinez School, 100 James Street

A discussion ensued brainstorming the following:

- a. Exploring new strategies to deliver food to families
- b. Researching the possibility of obtaining more funding to provide more food to families
- c. Utilizing school staff to help identify families with food insecurity
- d. Investigating the process of adding questions to the climate survey
- e. Identifying questions regarding food insecurity to possibly be added to the climate survey

**VII: Other Business:**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

**Adjournment:**

On the Motion by Mr. Matt Wilcox to adjourn at 5:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cheryl Myers*

Cheryl Myers  
Central Kitchen  
Administrative Assistant