



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connecticut

Food Service Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 12, 2022 via Zoom

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Mr. Matt Wilcox.

Attendance: Mr. Thomas Lamb (Chief Operating Officer), Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair)
Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas, Ms. Gail Sharry, Ms. JoAnne Wilcox

II. Introductions and Announcements: New board members have been seated and it is expected that one of the members will be assigned to chair this committee in the near future. Mr. Wilcox will remain on this committee to provide continuity and support.

III. Update on Food Gap Subgroup: Reminder of dates and discussion about available data that can support the group

Ms. Sharry provided Ms. Holmes with documentation needed to gather data from the school year prior to Covid and the year during Covid. This data will be used to compare differences and identify needs of families during food gaps. Additionally, data will be collected from Ms. Swamy. The subgroup decided to attempt to collaborate with existing food providers to create pop-up pantries for food distributions during the February and April school breaks. Ms. Harris expressed the urgency to develop a plan that is permanently in place for future food gaps, as opposed to filling the need year to year. To prevent this from occurring, the subgroup will be working on creating a proposal to present the City of New Haven to establish funding. The subgroup will meet every Tuesday from 12:00PM-1:00PM. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2022. The minutes from the previous subgroup meeting are included with these Food Service Task Force minutes. Ms. Sharry was asked to submit information from the summer meals program including the year prior to and the year of Covid to be used as data to calculate gap needs during the summer. The Food Service Task Force will support the subgroup by posting information obtained from Ms. Holmes on the website as a means of supplying information to families in need. A discussion ensued including questions related to income eligibility data for free and reduced meals.



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IV. Update on Life-Threatening Allergy Advocacy Peer Group:

There are no updates at this time. This topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

V. Update on Finalizing Life-Threatening Food Allergy Management Plan Including Implementation, Forms, and Website Posting:

Mr. Lamb reported that Ms. Sue Peters has reviewed and approved all documents, which are now being reviewed by Mr. Stacey Hutcherson. Additionally, forms are in the process of being formatted to make navigation easier on the website with links from the plan to individual forms. A suggestion was made to organize the website so that all forms are in a centralized location to make accessing the forms easier. All documents will be posted once review and formatting has been completed.

VI. Update on Food Policies:

There are no updates at this time. Mr. Wilcox will be contacting Ms. Tiffany Jackson and discussing ways to update the 3000 series policies and their subsets by using the CAFE Model as a guide. 3000 series policies are policies related to business and operations and includes food services. Food service policies are near completion and are in the final stages of processing. This topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

VII. Other Business:

Student BOE members have expressed interest in improving food menu items. Ms. Sharry suggested conducting future taste testing events with students to get input on foods they prefer that are available and within regulation with the USDA. It was noted that due to Covid, there are supply chain issues. Products that are normally available are not, contributing to substitutions and sudden menu changes. A discussion ensued about the following:

- a. Financial costs associated with food quality improvement
- b. Supply chain problems
- c. Internships for students to help in the kitchens
- d. Teaching home economics skills to children so they can make nutritious meals at home
- e. Current Food Corp cooking channel on YouTube



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NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 9, 2022. Agenda items are due to the Chair (Mr. Matt Wilcox), by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday February 2, 2022.

Adjournment: **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Myers

Cheryl Myers
Central Kitchen Clerk