



# NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Connecticut

### Food Service Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 14, 2022 via Zoom

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:07PM by Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III.

**Attendance:** Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III, (Chair), Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Dr. Michael Finley, Ms. Kimberly Acosta, Ms. Alyson Fox, Mr. David Gelinias, Ms. Latha Swamy, Ms. Gail Sharry

**II. Introductions and Announcements:** Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III introduced himself. Afterwards, members and attendees took turns introducing themselves. Ms. Sharry announced that she would be retiring from being the Director of New Haven Public Schools Food Services at the end of June 2023.

**III. Plan for Expanding Access to Locally Grown, Healthy, Sustainable Food, Decreasing Packaging Waste, and Increasing Opportunities for Food Donation, Food Rescue, and Composting**

The New Haven Board of Education has approved and passed the resolution of the Climate Task Force aimed at creating a plan within six months to expand access to locally grown, healthy, sustainable food, decrease packaging waste and increase opportunities for food donations, food rescue, and composting. Progress will be reported at the April 26, 2023 board meeting. The New Haven Food System Policy Division is moving towards finalizing the opportunity to pay for a baseline assessment with the Center for Good Food Purchasing to assess food procurement practices that currently exist with the New Haven Public School system. A discussion ensued about the following discursing the Center for Good Food Purchasing:

- a. Procedures
- b. Data collection
- c. Timelines

Ms. Acosta explained how the Urban Agriculture Master Plan is connected to the Good Food Purchasing Plan. The Urban Agriculture Master Plan is a multi-year process that will continue through September 2023. This goal of this plan is to lead a community-rooted vision for implementing farming growth in New Haven that will ensure that residents are able to easily become involved in all aspects of urban agriculture and experience its socioeconomic health and environmental



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benefits. This plan fits into one of the pathways of the Good Food Purchasing Plan by including socioeconomic viability and ensuring that New Haven has the capacity to support residents and businesses involved in urban agriculture. A discussion ensued about the following:

- a. Community and school gardens
- b. Use of available city property

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**IV. Update from  
Food Gap  
Subgroup:**

Ms. Fox announced that four sites will be used as pop-up pantries during the December School Recess. Information will be distributed to families via New Haven Public Schools automated calls, signs, and flyers. Pop-up pantries will be at the following sites on December 28, 2022 from 2:00PM-4:00PM:

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

In the event of inclement weather, the distribution will be held the following day on December 29, 2022. The process has been streamlined and an intake form will be used to gather information from families to help with future distributions.

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**VII. Other  
Business:**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

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**Adjournment:**

**On the Motion by Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III to adjourn at 5:51PM.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Cheryl Myers*

Cheryl Myers  
Central Kitchen Clerk