



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

June 9, 2021

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. Larry Conaway, Mr. Matt Wilcox, Ms. Maren Tornay,
Mr. Amadi Towe, Ms. Nijija-lfe Waters
Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry, Mr. Dan Shields

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Food Service Task Force was called to order at 5:02 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.
- III. **LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGY ADVOCACY PEER GROUP:** Amadi Towe is a 5th grade student and Fair Food Allergy Research Education advocate who presented his ideas on creating an allergy advocacy community consisting of students and adults to bring further awareness and support to children with food allergies. Mr. Towe would also like to create ways in which children with food allergies feel less isolated during lunch periods. Mr. Conaway recommended that Mr. Towe start with communicating his ideas to his school administration and asking assistance in finding ways to start an allergy advocacy group at his school and possibly branching out from there. Mr. Towe included the following ideas for children with food allergies:
 - Creating a special dining area either inside or outside the school building for all students with food allergies so they can dine together
 - Placing allergy labels on foods and teaching students how to read the labels to identify allergens
 - Having special meals prepared
 - Using a buddy system between middle school and high school students so they can support each other

- IV. UPDATE of POLICIES 3542.33 AND 3542.42:** The policy subcommittee is making progress in the reviewing and updating of the current policies to make sure the policies meet the needs of the New Haven Board of Education. The updating of these policies continues to be on-going and will stay on the agenda for the next Food Service Task Force meeting.
- V. UPDATE ON LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY PLAN:** The life-threatening allergy plan is being reviewed by the nursing department and school administrators for any necessary revisions and is on the agenda for the June 21, 2021 Governance meeting. Subsequently, the plan will go to the first Board of Education meeting in July as a first read and then on to the second Board of Education meeting in July for a final vote. The nursing department is also reviewing the allergy form that is sent to parents that collects information on students with allergies to see if any revisions need to be made. This line item will continue to stay on the agenda for the next Food Service Task Force meeting.
- VI. FOOD SERVICE DURING SUMMER PROGRAMS:** Summer meals will be distributed from sixty-eight sites. This includes 33 schools, out of which twelve of these schools will also distribute curbside meals, and there will be 20 bus/van sites. Some summer programs will run from June 26, 2021 through August 13, 2021. Buses and vans will operate through August 20, 2021. This line item will remain on the agenda for the next Food Service Task Force meeting.
- VII. DISCUSSION ON JULY AGENDA ITEMS:** The July agenda will include the following:
- Update of Policies 3542.33 and 3542.42
 - Update on Life-Threatening Food Allergy Plan
 - Update on Food Service During Summer Programs

Food Service Task Force members and guests will email any additional requests for the July meeting to the Chair (Mr. Larry Conaway) and Co-Chair (Mr. Matt Wilcox).

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5:00 p. m. Agenda items are due to the Chair (Mr. Larry Conaway) and Co-Chair (Mr. Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. by Mr. Larry Conaway.