



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

February 12, 2020

The meeting was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, Gateway Center, 5th Floor Conference Room 5B, 54 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06519.

Present: Ms. Jennifer Allis-Vazquez, Ms. Lihame Arouna, Mr. Austin Bryniarski, Ms. Melody Gallagher, Ms. Susan Harris, Mx. Adrian Huq, Mr. Mark Zaretsky
Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry, Mr. David Gelinias, David Prescott.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Gail Sharry called the meeting to order.

II. INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS: Attendees and members of the committee took turns at introducing themselves. Mr. Bryniarski announced that the mayor will be at the New Haven Food Policy Council meeting that will be held on March 18, 2020.

III. CHOCOLATE MILK PILOT for HIGH SCHOOLS:

The chocolate milk pilot started on January 8, 2020 and will run through June 2020. To date, 18 serving days of data has been collected from the 10 high schools. 34,653 meals were served, and 33 percent of those meals were served with white milk. On days chocolate milk was offered, there were 17,000 meals served and 75 percent of students chose chocolate milk. Data shows that on days when chocolate milk and white milk were offered, 23 percent of students chose white milk. Milk consumption will continue to be monitored and data will be collected.

IV. FOOD ADVISORY MEETINGS

Managers continue to hold food advisory meetings and more have been scheduled. These meetings are held monthly to discuss food issues including menus and menu related issues. During the meetings managers explain federal rules, regulations, the 5 components to a meal and why students must take 3 components of the meal including 1 which must be a fruit or vegetable. The meetings involve a food service manager, the food service building cook lead, a school administrator, and several students from the school. The school principal designates students to the meetings.

V. UPDATE ON CAFETERIA FOOD WASTE, COMPOSTING, and PLASTIC USE:

A. SCROG Pilot Program on Food Waste

Southern Central Regional Council of Governments (SCROG) has applied for the Regional Performance Incentive Program Funding for a food waste diversion pilot program. This is a 2-year program in which the city would receive assistance and funding for 1-3 schools. New Haven has schools that are interested in participating. The City of New Haven is reviewing the program. Ms. Sharry recommended that the Food Service Task Force express support of this program to the Board of Education. A motion was made and 2nd to move the SCROG project to the Board of Education. Mr. Zaretsky explained how the program is working in Woodbridge.

B. Student Recycling and Food Waste Ideas

The number of participating schools is pending per SCROG pilot program details. A Green Team from each of the participating schools will be needed to help with the SCROG project. Mr. Huq expressed the importance of educating students about recycling to overcome barriers and suggested student to student communication, educational posters, food waste audits to address possible solutions to students throwing away unwanted food, and recycling bins placed at specific locations for ease and convenience.

VI. SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM: The first official Summer Meals Meeting will be held on February 28, 2020 at 9:00 at Central Kitchen. Ways to start outreach, starting dates, and ending dates will be discussed.

VII. SNAP ADVOCACY UPDATE: Mr. Bryniarski stated that the Connecticut Attorney General, William Tong, has filed a lawsuit to preserve the SNAP program and prevent the new changes from occurring. No further action as happened.

VIII. UPDATE on DISCUSSION ABOUT DEADLY ALLERGIES and ISSUES RELATED to FOOD SERVICE: Ms. Sharry stated that the IT department continues to work on ways to implement software into PowerSchool to better track students. The Governance Committee continues discussions about solutions. Ms. Allis-Vazquez, Director of Public Health Nursing, has reached out to surrounding districts that have expressed similar obstacles for solutions.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 5:00 p. m. in Gateway Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 54 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06519. Agenda items are due to chair by 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2020.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.