



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE TASK FORCE

MINUTES

September 9, 2020

The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 9, via Zoom.

Present: Ms. Jennifer Allis-Vazquez, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Salina Manning, Ms. Latha Swamy,
Mr. David Townley
Staff: Ms. Gail Sharry,

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Gail Sharry called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Ms. Sharry introduced herself. Afterward, attendees and members of the committee took turns at introducing themselves.
- III. **FOOD SERVICE DURING REMOTE LEARNING:** The New Haven Public Schools Food Services Department began serving meals for the 2020-2021 school year on September 3, 2020. Parents can pick up meals from 41 school sites 5 days a week. Serving days are Monday through Friday between 11:00am-1:00pm during which one breakfast and one hot lunch meal are distributed daily.
- IV. **CHOCOLATE MILK PILOT for HIGH SCHOOLS:** The pilot ended on March 12, 2020 when schools were shut down due to Covid-19. ESUMS students would like the pilot to continue when in person classes resume. We will revisit this item in the future pending schools reopening for in person learning.
- V. **STUDENT CONCERNS of CAFETERIA FOOD WASTE, COMPOSTING, and PLASTIC USE:** The school composting grant was placed on hold and the schools currently have no composting needs due to in-person learning is not happening right now. The city has been granted a USDA composting grant that also allows for institutional composting which could be extended to the schools by utilizing the schools as a composting collaborative group. This item will be placed back on the agenda in the future.

VI. UPDATE ON DEADLY ALLERGIES AND ISSUES RELATED TO FOOD SERVICE: Two parents have requested special meals for children with allergies since the school shutdown in March. Signs have been posted with contact information for parents to call if they need special meals. Dr. Jennifer Allis-Vazquez expressed precautions needed when serving lunches in classrooms pending in-person learning. They include:

- Cleaning after the children have eaten
- Hand hygiene
- Children with airborne allergies
- Children bringing lunches from home

The process is in the exploratory stage and will be discussed as information is gathered.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 5:00 p. m. via Zoom. Agenda items are due to chair by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.