



## NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Connecticut

**Food Service Task Force Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
Meeting held via Zoom**

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**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM by Dr. Orlando Yarborough.

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**Attendees:** Dr. Orlando Yarborough (Chair), Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. Baron Young, Ms. Jennifer Punzo, Mr. Mike Degen, Ms. Susan Harris, Mr. Billy Bromage, Ms. Krina Byrd, Ms. Maria Karas, Ms. Salina Manning, Ms. Latha Swamy

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**II. Introductions And Announcements:** Dr. Orlando Yarborough introduced himself. Afterwards, members and attendees introduce themselves. Mr. Lamb announced that a climate protest will be held on February 15, 2024 and requested information related to climate, food insecurity, and composting to be sent to the Director of Communications in preparation for the protest.

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**IV. Food Allergy Plan Review:** The Food Allergy Plan has been finalized, posted, and can be viewed on the New Haven Public Schools website. This item will be removed from future agendas.

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**V. Update on Plan for Expanding Access to Locally-Grown Healthy, Sustainable Food, Decreasing Packaging Waste, and Increasing Opportunities For Food Donation, Food Rescue, and Composting** Data has been collected and a baseline assessment on procurement practices is being conducted. Results of the assessment are expected prior to the next meeting and will be discussed when completed. NHPS Food Services remain dedicated to staying in compliance with this agenda item.

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**VI. Updates from School Break Groceries Subgroup:**

The December 2023 food distribution was a success. All 500 bags had been disbursed within the first 30 minutes of dispersal. The committee expressed growing concerns related to rising food prices, limited resources and how this affects future distributions. A discussion ensued detailing the following:

- a. Researching methods to increase funding to procure food for a more sustainable future in distributions
- b. Estimating approximately 13,000 to 15,000 pounds of food is needed to reach distribution goals for April
- c. Exploring partnerships with Yale and other investors as a means to procure food for April and upcoming distributions
- d. Expansion of long-term partnerships
- e. Collecting data from Food Service

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**VII: Other Business:**

None

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**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

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**Adjournment:**

On the Motion by Dr. Orlando Yarborough to adjourn at 5:48PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Cheryl Myers*

Cheryl Myers  
Central Kitchen  
Administrative Assistant