



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connecticut

**Food Service Task Force Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Meeting held via Zoom**

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

Attendees: Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III, (Chair), Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair),
Dr. Michael Finley, Mr. Baron Young, Ms. Jennifer Punzo,
Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. Mike Degen, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas

**II. Introductions
and
Announcements:** There were no introductions nor announcements.

**III. Food Service
Update:** Preparations for the state review are in progress and on schedule.

**IV. Food Allergy
Plan Review:** Documents have been reviewed and no changes were suggested.
Documents will be edited, posted so that the appropriate staff will be able
to use then as a fillable document, and revision dates will be updated.
Dr. Yarborough requested feedback from all reviewers to ensure all
documents were reviewed by all responsible parties.

**V. Food Allergies
and Food Service:** Nurses are required to provide Cook Leads with an Allergy List for assigned
school sites. When a new student who has an allergy arrives, an updated list is
provided to the Cook Lead. Stickers are currently placed in windows of
classrooms alerting staff of life-threatening allergies, and there is an alert that
pops up in PowerSchool stating "Medical Alert." Mr. Young suggested the
possibility of adding an alert that pops up stating "Allergy Alert."

**VI. Local School
Wellness Policy:** The wellness policy was previously updated and is currently in use.



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VII. 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

In collaboration with Blue Earth Compost and other groups, a pilot program has begun in Barnard, ESUMS, High School in the Community, John Martinez, and New Haven Academy. The focus will be on food recovery, food scrap composting, and environmental classroom activities. Partnerships have been established that will facilitate collection and redistribution of surplus food from school cafeterias. Resources and infrastructure are being provided at participating schools to aid in the collection of food scraps generated in school cafeterias. Composting is occurring offsite. Containers, bags, and signage for food scrap collection are supplied. Contents are picked up on a weekly basis, and bought to a licensed composting and anaerobic digestion facility. This pilot includes educational activities that will meet Next Generation Science Standards, can be integrated into existing curricula, and will extend over a term of four semesters starting September 2023 and ending at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This program is currently grant funded. Once the pilot ends, future projections predict the cost to continue this program will be \$675,000.00 per every 18 months. A cost benefit analysis will be used to assess future potential in continuation of this program.

VIII. Updates from Food Gap Subgroup:

The next food distribution will be held during the Christmas break. More information will be provided during future meetings.

IX: Other Business:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

Adjournment:

On the Motion by Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III to adjourn at 5:58PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Myers

Cheryl Myers
Central Kitchen
Administrative Assistant