

Minutes of the School Food Subcommittee Meeting  
January 10, 2005

Present: Alfredo Sabillon, Leah Rimkus, Holley Wysong, Maryann Rainey, Meyla Ruwin, Pat Saturnio, Caroline Grannan, Ed Wilkins, Dana Woldow

Dana called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. The minutes from the December meeting were read and a motion made to approve as read. MSP.

The pilot program trying to increase the return of the meal applications in 10 targeted elementary schools was discussed. Ed presented data on the % of returned vs non-returned apps for the 10 schools, comparing the rate for 04-05 to the rate for 03-04. The rate of return increased at 9 out of 10 schools.

Strategies used to increase the rate of return included phone calls to the Principal of each school, explaining the benefits to the school for having a high rate of return. Those who made the calls reported that the Principals all seemed to be unaware of the benefits, and that some still harbor resentment over the sudden cancellation of Provision 2 several years ago, and the resultant need to again begin collecting apps yearly instead of every 4 years. Principals reported that they had never been given an explanation for why this had happened and some were under the impression that SNS was capable of feeding their students at no cost, with or without an app on file. All who were contacted and received the explanation were willing to make more effort to get apps returned, once they understood how their schools would benefit. The volunteers working on this project were not able to make contact with Principals at 2 of the 10 targeted schools.

It was decided that another group of schools should be targeted for the second semester, and that the group should consist of 5 schools each from elementary, middle and high school levels. The committee still needs complete data for the current year, including all schools at all levels, to make a decision on which schools should be targeted for the next round. Ed reported that Philip Smith would be releasing that data at the full committee meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The targeted schools working group will meet as soon as the data is available to make the decision on which schools to target. Time is of the essence, as the labels used for determining the free/reduced rate for the API reports (which is a major factor in the similar schools rankings) will be coded soon.

Next steps include developing and distributing more materials explaining how individual schools and students benefit from more apps returned. Suggestions were made to contact parents in targeted schools via a school newsletter, if available; to fax information to Principals as a follow-up to phone calls; and to present information at School Site Council meetings. It was mentioned that an effort should be made to institutionalize the process of informing Principals, so that ultimately this job can be done by SNS and not by volunteers.

Leah provided an update on the salad bar pilot. Still to be completed is the financial evaluation. The committee supports expansion of the pilot if Leah can find funding. It

was suggested that preference be given to the 14 schools which are already doing a Nutrition Program and that within that group, priority be given to schools which have a very high rate of return of their meal applications, particularly those with a high free/reduced rate. This would help eliminate the problem of kids who choose to eat at the salad bar but bring no money to pay for it and do not have a qualified app on file. A suggestion was made that at least one school be from a different demographic profile.

A discussion of which lunches meet the proposed 600 mg limit for sodium was postponed until the next meeting to give Ed more time to acquire the necessary information from Preferred Meal Systems.

A brief discussion was held regarding Provision 2. Now that the proposal for a Point of Sale computerized system has had to be scrapped due to lack of funds, it is more important than ever to try to address the cash shortage at SNS by other means. Increasing the rate of return for the meal apps will give a more realistic idea of the number of kids in the district who really do qualify for f/r/l. As soon as Philip presents the data for the current year, we will be able to see how many elementary schools meet the threshold of approx. 75-80% f/r/l which is necessary to make Provision 2 financially viable.

Questions about the nutritional content of the cafeteria meals were referred to SNS. It was decided that such information can be posted on the district website and also on the website of the student nutrition committee ([www.sfusdfood.org](http://www.sfusdfood.org)) Please send any information for the nutrition committee website in pdf format. This information can be sent to Dana.

Some members are not able to attend a Monday meeting, so it has been proposed that some meetings be held on Tuesday.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-5pm at Aptos.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.