

Draft minutes  
**School Food Subcommittee meeting**  
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009

**Present:** Libby Albert, Laura Brainin-Rodriguez, Karen Gehrman, Caroline Grannan, Paula Jones, Zetta Reicker, Jacob Schreiber, Marcia Wertz, Dana Woldow.

Dana Woldow called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. It was decided that Karen Gehrman would chair the meeting.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting (Dec. 3, 2008) were approved as revised.
2. Zetta Reicker of S.F. Food Systems reported on a study of Student Nutrition Services. Some findings:
  - Ideally, the cost and revenue per meal-equivalent are close to equal. (“Meal-equivalent” takes into account breakfast and after-school snack, reported as proportional percentages of a full meal.) In SFUSD, in November, the cost per meal was \$3.30 and revenue per meal was \$2.87, including a la carte sales.
  - The analysis examined the number of meals per labor-hour. The industry standard is 25, and SFUSD achieved only 13-21 meals per labor-hour.
  - Breaking down the financial deficit, elementary service was in the black, the main line in middle and high schools had a slight deficit, and a la carte overall had a substantial deficit. Four schools – all middle schools – showed a profit in a la carte sales.

Various options for altering or cutting back on a la carte sales were discussed. One model is a “nutrient-based system,” in which the nutrients are counted but may be incorporated in one multi-ingredient item such as a burrito, as opposed to a “component-based system,” which counts a protein item, a grain item, a fruit and so forth.

Zetta announced that a new concept will be piloted at Balboa High School, starting at the end of March, adopting a food court model. Technically, options for the main line will be increased and the separate a la carte will be eliminated, but in a setting with “theme” serving areas such as a grill and an Italian food area.

Paula Jones asked the status of the policy allowing students with no money to eat free. Board of Education Commissioner Jill Wynns is about to present a resolution making the current de facto “no child left hungry” policy official, which will mean in essence agreeing to cover the cost of that policy rather than neglecting to acknowledge it and then demanding that SNS break even.

3. Dana reported on the situation regarding an El Tonayense taco truck doing daily business just outside the fence of John O'Connell High School in violation of the city regulation limiting catering trucks from operating within a certain range of schools during weekdays. The truck's owner has requested an exemption from the regulation, and has repeatedly requested postponements of the official hearing on the request for the exemption. Committee members and other school food advocates are asked to write letters to the Police Permit Bureau requesting that no more postponements be granted on the matter, and to come speak at the March 11 hearing that's currently scheduled.
4. Paula reported that she and Dana have met with two well-informed parent leaders to discuss ways to find outside funding to help support the school meals program. An evening meeting is planned to inform other newcomers about the situation.

An intern is researching best practices in other school districts.

5. There's bad news about the fruit grant that was expected to provide fruit in the classroom at 17 schools. Despite confident predictions that the grant would come through, it wound up being approved for only one specialty school, Mission Education Center (for new elementary-age immigrants). The grant is currently in effect at Balboa High School and is successful on the basis that the students eagerly eat the fruit, but Dana reports that it's an administrative nightmare. Balboa is on its third fruit provider and is about to switch again because of problems.

It was discussed that food sales in flagrant violation of the Wellness Policy have been going on unchanged at Galileo High School, despite assurances over two years from district administrators that they would make sure Galileo staff abides by the Wellness Policy. The sales take place daily during the school day, in violation of the Wellness Policy; are conducted by students, in violation of the Wellness Policy; and include items that violate SFUSD nutrition standards and standards imposed by state law. Photos of the daily sales taken last week are now posted on Flickr. Board of Education Commissioner Rachel Norton has written to district administrator Jeannie Pon requesting that she ensure that Galileo abide by the Wellness Policy.

The next School Food Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, at 4 p.m. in bungalow 9 at School Health programs, 1515 Quintara Street.