

Minutes of the School Food Subcommittee meeting
May 16, 2005

Present: Debbie Odiye; Leah Rimkus; Paula Jones; Ed Wilkins; Caroline Grannan; Philip Smith; Laura Brainin-Rodrigues; Meyla Ruwin; Ericka Lovrin; Alfredo Sabillon; Dana Woldow (chair)

Guests: Susan Tramontona; Diane Bekkers; Tom O'Hara; Sande Leigh; Julie Inalsingh

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

A motion was made that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved as written.
MSP

The issue of the salad bar at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy was discussed. Several members of the HMCRA community, including the school Principal, spoke on behalf of keeping the salad bar for at least another year. Students and parents like the salad, and the importance of getting the students to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables was stressed. It was felt that one year was not long enough for the salad bar to be given to achieve break-even status financially. Debbie Odiye was questioned about reasons for the financial deficit, and the extent of her participation in efforts to address the deficit. Debbie stated that she had gone to the Milk site three times during the period of January to mid-May to do onsite monitoring. Ed explained that he had seen many different versions of figures related to the salad bar loss, and to participation on salad bar vs non salad bar days, but that until he had a chance to review the figures himself, he could not ensure their accuracy. He will meet with Leah and Paula to go over all figures. It was explained that despite the popularity of the salad bar, the district was in such dire financial straits that no project which ran even \$1 in the red could be considered for renewal. Various strategies for eliminating the deficit were discussed. The idea of moving the project to another site with a higher number of free lunch-qualified students was discussed. All present were reminded that the purpose of the committee is not to make policy, but rather to recommend policy to the Board of Education, and that the Board is then free to act on our recommendations or to ignore them, but that our recommendations are in no way binding. Finally, a motion was proposed: "Move to extend the salad bar project for an additional year." MSP

The Grab n Go breakfast pilot at Balboa was discussed. Dana explained that there are problems anticipated (eg. – if 700 students show up the first day, can they all be given breakfast and their eligibility checked in a timely fashion?), but that currently only about 70 students are eating the hot breakfast in the caf, out of a school population of about 1000. In a student survey, 25% reported they never eat breakfast, while another 50% said they sometimes eat breakfast. With the possibility of up to 75% of students not having eaten any breakfast on any given school day, and the fact that 80% of surveyed students said they would like to eat breakfast in the classroom during the first 10 minutes of class, it seems likely that the Grab n Go will increase breakfast participation.

The meal apps working group will continue to meet over the summer, but the school food subcommittee will meet next in September. Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.