

Minutes of the School Food Subcommittee
October 4, 2004

Present: Laura Brainin-Rodriguez; Jessica Reich; Holley Wysong; Caroline Grannan; Leah Rimkus; Meyla Ruwin; Ericka Davis; Ed Wilkins; Colleen Kavanagh (co-chair); Dana Woldow (co-chair)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as submitted.

Ed reported on the return of the meal applications. Returns are up, thanks to the effort made to get every child in every school to return an application. Unfortunately, SNS is about 2 weeks behind schedule in getting the apps processed, due to the new software. SNS was not able to get fully up to speed on processing the apps until Sept. 15 and will likely not meet the state deadline of October 8th. The state has been notified. The good news is that it appears that more kids are being qualified for free lunch than previously, likely due to the increase in returned apps.

Meyla reported on the POS pilot. Concerns which Trish Bascom had about the proposal as originally submitted to LEAF have been addressed and the project is moving forward. They are aiming for a start date of November 1st at both Lowell and Mission. With Debbie Odiye of SNS, who wrote the original proposal and had been in charge of the pilot, now out on medical leave for three months, it is unclear who from SNS will be taking point on the project. Meyla will confer with Philip Smith for guidance on this. Meyla was asked if the available funds from LEAF would be sufficient to cover the cost at both schools; she said yes. Ed asked if there would be enough money left to cover any additional costs from the IT department; Meyla said that based on Debbie's proposal, this would not be a problem.

The new menu items were discussed. SNS is getting good feedback on many items, but a couple seem less popular than anticipated. In some cases, Preferred Meal Systems has been asked to reformulate their product to make it more acceptable to our kids. A taste testing of some new entrees is being planned for later in October. The issue of fruit was discussed. Many kids have trouble with whole fresh fruit – they don't have knives to cut it up and the younger kids don't like to bite into it, especially those who have lost or are losing teeth. Even at the high school level, observation last year indicated that kids were more willing to eat the fruit if it were cut up. Ed will look into whether pre-cut fruit packed in juice is available from Preferred; the committee has previously indicated that it is the syrup in which cut fruit is commonly packed which is the objectionable part, not the cut up fruit itself. Using pre-cut fruit (if available packed in juice) would allow kids to have more exotic fruits such as pineapple or mandarin oranges, which would otherwise not be available. Ed was authorized to go ahead and order any cut fruit packed in juice which is available and affordable.

The issue of sodium limits was introduced. No limit has been set for sodium in entrees in the nutrition policy, but it has long been one of the committee's goals to do so. For next

meeting, Laura will research what limit is recommended by other organizations such as WHO. Jessica will investigate USDA policy. Dana will research what kinds of limits other school districts have set on sodium. Our goal will be to have a recommended limit set and sent to the full board for approval before the end of the school year.

Leah gave an update on the salad bar pilot at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. A media event was held last Thursday, with Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Dr. Mitchell Katz (DPH); and BOE member Jill Wynns in attendance. The salad bar is available to all students, including those who qualify for free lunch, two days per week, and is getting between 20-40% higher participation in the lunch program than before the salad bar was implemented.

Next meeting will be November 8th (second Monday) at 4pm at Aptos MS, room 143.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.