

Minutes of the School Food Subcommittee meeting  
December 3, 2008

Present:  
Libby Albert (DCYF), Paula Jones (DPH) Zetta Reicker (SF Food Systems), Marcia Wertz (UCSF), Dana Woldow (Parent), Karen Gehrman (Parent), Laura Brainin-Rodriguez (DPH), Mark Elkin (School Health Programs), Loretta Lee (SNS), Colleen Kavanagh (Campaign for Better Nutrition), Rachel Norton (parent, BOE), Amy Nelson (DCYF), Maryann Rainey (Lowell HS nurse), Holly Wysong (CPMC Diabetes Svcs).

Mark Elkin called the meeting to order at 4:20.

Dana Woldow made a note on behalf of Ed Wilkins that Loretta Lee (Assistant Director of SNS) would be leaving SNS by the end of the week, and stressed that due to Ed's lack of staff, he would not be available in this next school year to take on any extra work, such as pilot programs, before next year. Discussion of the history of SNS and cuts that have decreased administration from 12 area managers to 1 manager and assistant director, budget constraints that lead to lack of compliance with state reviewers.

Loretta led a discussion of participation rates, the average daily breakfast between Sept 08 and Oct 08 (when hot breakfast pilot began) increased from 4669 to 5652, and the increase in elementary schools went from 2854 to 3528 (34% increase). SNS aims to increase meal participation to 10,000 for breakfast participation.

The group discussed at length the issues related to wasted food (due to unannounced field trips, adults eating meals, seconds being given) and the impact on the budget. Loretta noted as an example that the 10,935 wasted lunches in October 08 (135,288 purchased vs. 124,353 claimed) amounted to an \$11,153 loss for the district. The cash shortage to the district (due to food waste, no app on file) for 8/25-10/31/08 was \$272,823. Meal application statistics were reported - 55.1% free and reduced lunch, though the no application on file number was 9,778 (vs 11,000) last year.

Discussion of the impending POS system and the problems with compliance that will remain, and suggestions were offered how to encourage schools to comply. Colleen suggested incentive programs and Dana suggested reducing adult meals as a first step. Paula asserted the "no applications on file" number is an example of the money drains in the system which need to be addressed.

Colleen suggested going to the BOE by raising the inconsistency of reporting as an example of disparity between the student experiences (some kids get free lunch and some do not based on how the principal complies with SNS) and suggested getting an agenda item at a BOE meeting to raise this as an equity issue. Rachel suggested going to the Board more from a financial perspective (for example, the cost to district of adults eating school meals) versus an issue of injustice.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

Colleen reported on Pilot Programs. She suggested doing an urban pilot project to mirror a recent Nebraska pilot program on lowering the eligibility criteria for getting money for a summer food program from 50% to 40%. The eligibility criteria for summer food programs is currently based on the free/reduced % of the nearest elementary school. If this % were dropped from 50% to 40%, it would increase the number of eligible participants for the summer food program in SF dramatically. Suggests we need a study comparing the profile of families in SF versus elsewhere to

show the increased need in SF.

Laura suggested statistics could be culled from a current budget project. Colleen discussed making a request through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act regarding cost of living increases, specifically requesting to Congress to get the GAO to compare the eligibility vs. cost of living to show how the eligibility requirement does not serve San Franciscans.

Marcia Wertz asked about the letter of introduction from the last meeting and Libby reported that it had gotten stalled and did not get submitted in time.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18th from 4:15-5:15 at 1515 Quintara.