

Minutes of the Student Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee  
March 5, 2009

Present: Meyla Ruwin; Karen Gehrman; Colleen Kavanagh; Paula Jones; Patricia Gray; Laura Brainin-Rodriguez; Janet Wojcicki; Dana Woldow; Zetta Reicker (SF Food Systems); Greg Knowles (SF State student)

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 by co-chair Meyla Ruwin. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

Zetta Reicker from SF Food Systems has been producing reports for Ed Wilkins in the Student Nutrition Services department, and will be managing the pilot program at Balboa to transform the a la carte operation into a food court model serving only meals (no snacks), all of which will be eligible for government reimbursement. Students must use their ID card, which works in the Point of Sale system; those on paid status will have to pay for their meals. Eventually the payment will be electronic through the POS but during the pilot phase cash will be used. There will be three themed meal option, one available in the cafeteria (choice of hot lunch entrees and salad bar) and two in the Coyote Grill. All meals will be coming from preferred Meal Systems.

Problems which have been identified with on site preparation of a la carte food include waste; schools not following the recipes resulting in meal offering containing more food than specified; and a relatively low rate of meals produced per hour as compared to industry averages. All of this drives a substantial deficit; SNS is moving forward with its goal of having all meals be reimbursable in the 09-10 school year. This is dependent on installation of the POS system at the middle and high schools; installation will begin over the summer and continue into the school year.

Zetta and Paula have put together a couple of grant proposals to try to get funding to support the necessary marketing of the new POS system at the school sites. The online cash function is something which will have to be explained carefully to parents and staff and represents a major change in the way paid students pay for their meals. Parents add money to an online account instead of handing their children cash; some may not be familiar with this method of payment and need to be walked through how to set up the account and keep it solvent. SNS does not have staff to do this outreach and schools may not either. Meyla suggested that wellness center staff may be able to help with the outreach to parents.

Meyla reported on professional development offered to staff by school health programs, as well as the latest nutrition newsletters, harvest of the month, and MUNI bus posters featuring winning artwork done by students on the theme of "Pick Me" to promote consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and being active. Although 17 elementary schools applied for the second round of funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant currently in operation at Balboa HS, only one school (Mission Ed Center) was chosen. Reasons may include the fact that schools chosen were mostly over 95% qualified for free lunch and SF has few schools over 88%; also Balboa with 1200 students already

receiving the grant might have meant that schools in counties with less students already in the FFVP program may have been more likely to be selected, as the grant must be equally spread out over all of California. Balboa will likely apply for a second year of funding once the second year funding is opened to the original pilot schools.

The taco truck hearing was scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> but may be postponed again. Information will be sent out as it becomes available.

Galileo HS was running a student store selling food daily in violation of the Wellness Policy. After complaints were made to BOE members, the store was told to discontinue food sales; they may continue to sell sweatshirts and other non edibles. Staff at the school's Wellness Center, including former nutrition committee member Jessica Stein Colvin, will be helping to make sure the policy is enforced.

Colleen reported on her trip to Washington DC. The mood around nutrition funding seems to be more positive. The School Nutrition Association has suggested that an increase in reimbursement of 35 cents for lunch and 25 cents for breakfast would be helpful to schools; just the lunch portion would cost an additional \$2 billion. It is possible that federal legislation may be passed that would preempt state legislation around nutrition standards but it is believed that localities would still be able to impose higher standards, as SF does.

A motion was made: The minutes of a previous meeting can be approved by the members present at the start of the meeting regardless of whether there is a quorum. Motion was seconded and passed. It was noted that members may ask that minutes be amended at any time, even if they have already been approved at a previous meeting.

Meyla and Dana will meet with Nancy Waymack to discuss the status of changes to the Wellness Policy proposed by the committee last year.

The BOE resolution which would address the issue of feeding students unqualified for free meals but with no money to pay for their meal, will be introduced at the board on March 10<sup>th</sup> by Commissioners Wynns and Norton. As soon as it is known at which board committees the motion will be discussed, that information will be forwarded to nutrition committee members, who may wish to speak in support of the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00; next meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup>.