

Minutes of the SFUSD Student Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee
October 8, 2009

Present: Maryann Rainey, Laura Brainin-Rodriguez, Karen Gehrman, Caroline Grannan, Zetta Reicker, Paula Jones, Colleen Kavanagh, Peter Lauterborn, Linda Liu, Patricia Gray, Amy Portello Nelson, Mark Elkin, Dana Woldow
Guests: Marcia Wertz, Yabnelu Marin, Stelly Kuo, Susan Kim-Stuart

Mark Elkin called the meeting to order at 3:40pm. The minutes were approved as read.

Zetta presented the most recent data on meal application returns. Enrollment at schools receiving meals through Student Nutrition Services is at 54,829. Thus far, 21,457 students have been qualified for free meals; 7287 for reduced price meals, and 6028 are not qualified for reimbursable meals and are on "paid" status. The 12,749 students who have not yet returned a meal application are also on paid status. Names of students with no application on file are being made available to schools.

SNS has prepared a training for Principals on the school meals program, regulation, how the program works, etc. It is on Q Books and Principals must take the training and pass a test on it by end of October.

The review by the state of SNS will be scheduled as soon as it is believed the district could pass. However, there are numerous problems at almost every site which still need to be addressed. Problems include schools not providing anyone to control the lunch line; some schools not using meal cards as required, violations of "offer vs serve" including schools insisting the caf worker put all meal components onto a tray for each K student, parents and younger siblings coming into the caf and taking breakfast without paying, kitchen access by non SNS staff. Some schools insist students be given milk for free (not as part of a reimbursable meal) and some school don't offer a "choice" of milk as required.

Strategies for supporting SNS to get better compliance with regulations was discussed. Caroline volunteered to create posters or flyers which would highlight the most egregious violations and explain in simple language why these are violations and why they must stop.

The "improved menu" is back, including whole grains, more variety on the salad bars, more variety of cut up fresh veg for ES, more choices for MS and HS and a larger portion for HS students. Hot breakfast continues in all schools.

The Point of Sale is being installed in high schools but it is going slowly and there are many problems. It is currently in place at Lowell, Lincoln, Washington, and the 5 pilot sites from last year, including Balboa and Galileo.

The pilot at Balboa to make all lunch choices reimbursable is continuing. Currently over 400 lunches a day are being served, up from 240 per day (caf).

Peter reported that the Youth Vote survey has been distributed to schools and it includes the two questions from this committee. The questions are:

10. Do you eat lunch most days?

- No
- Yes, the school lunch
- Yes, I bring lunch from home
- Yes, from a vending machine at school
- Yes, I eat off campus

11. What would encourage you to eat the school lunch?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

- Longer lunch period
- Shorter lines
- Better food
- Larger serving portions
- Nicer cafeteria environment
- Cheaper food
- Nicer lunch staff

Data from the survey should be available by mid-November, and a follow up survey will be done in the spring.

Dana announced that a customer service subcommittee will be formed to concentrate on improving the experience of dining in the cafeteria. Even without spending more money, there are ways to ensure students have a more pleasant experience. Zetta and Linda (our student rep) will co-chair this committee; anyone interested in joining should e-mail Dana who will coordinate the first meeting.

Colleen gave an update on federal legislation. Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act will be put off probably until the spring. It is hoped there will be more money available then. Colleen asked everyone to sign letters to Rep. Pelosi asking for more funding for school meals in the reauthorization.

Goals for the year were outlined, including supporting a 100% return of meal applications, compliance with all regulations so the district can pass the review, monitoring the POS installation, advocating before the BOE to prevent any recurrence of last year's cuts to the quality of the food, and a focus on improved customer service in the cafeterias. The budget committee will be reviewing the SNS budget at their meeting on December 15th; all members were asked to mark their calendars and attend if possible. Time will be announced closer to the date.

The Food Bank has offered to pay for a feasibility study to determine how to move towards better school food.

Next meeting: January 7th 2010

Next school food subcommittee meeting: November 18th