

Minutes of the Student Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee
Oct. 17, 2006

Present: Dana Woldow (chair), Libby Albert (DCYF), Elizabeth Baca (UCSF), Tavi Baker (Boys & Girls Clubs of SF), Laura Brainin-Rodriguez (SFDPH), Caroline Grannan (parent, SFPTA), Patricia Gray (Balboa HS Principal), Colleen Kavanagh (parent), Lillie Kocher (American Cancer Society), Jan Link (SFUSD), Meyla Ruwin (SFUSD), Ed Wilkins (SFUSD), Janet Wojcicki (UCSF), Deena Zacharin (SFUSD).

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Participants introduced themselves, and minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

2. Subcommittee report

a. Wellness Policy:

Dana Woldow spoke about enforcement of the Wellness Policy. The cafeterias are complying, but many schools are selling competitive foods in violation of the policy. Dana feels that this year is the time to get serious about enforcement, and she plans to start attending Board of Education meetings to announce the names of schools that are not complying.

In response to a request for an explanation, Dana noted that when food is sold competitively with the school meals, it takes money from the school meal program. The quality of the food suffers, and the youngest kids and the lowest-income kids (who don't have the option of buying food at the Beanery or off campus) are impacted the most. This applies to catering trucks, student club sales, teachers selling food in classrooms, prom fundraisers with pizza brought in and sold on campus, etc. In response to a question, Dana said that Student Nutrition runs the Beaneries.

Meyla Ruwin said that School Health Programs has secured a grant that will help get information out about this to school communities.

Dana said a catering truck has done business outside Galileo High for several years and that the principal of June Jordan Small School for Equity was recently planning to invite a truck to his school too. Dana said she explained to the June Jordan principal that the catering trucks sell items that SFUSD has banned for sale on campus. She noted that June Jordan serves a particularly at-risk population. It was asked whether June Jordan is a closed campus, and Dana didn't know.

Colleen Kavanagh spoke in support of providing regular reports to the Board of Education naming schools that violate the Wellness Policy.

It was moved and seconded that the committee add language to the nutrition policy banning catering trucks from doing business near schools. The proposed wording is as follows:

Proposed addition to nutrition policy:

Schools shall not allow or invite outside vendors, such as catering trucks or ice cream carts, to sell any kind of food or drinks to students within 1000 feet of the perimeter of school. Principals will take steps to remove such vendors who show up uninvited, including asking the vendor to move to 1000 feet from the perimeter of school, and if necessary, contacting the local police station to enlist their support.

Schools will not enter into profit-sharing or other business arrangements with such vendors, or with any off site business selling food in direct competition with the school cafeteria.

The question was raised whether SFUSD would have the authority to threaten to call the Police Department in case of violations. Meyla will ask the Legal department's opinion.

Laura Brainin-Rodriguez mentioned that the schools have a commercial-free policy. Meyla said that applies only to school grounds.

The proposed addition to the policy will be voted on at the next meeting.

In further discussion, Libby Albert asked if SFUSD is pursuing the catering-truck issue with the city. Dana said yes, but establishing our own policy is a first step.

Colleen reminded the members that in working with the mayor's office on this, committee members are not lobbying but educating.

b. The discussion of proposed membership criteria was put off until the next meeting.

c. School food

Ed Wilkins reported that the Grab n Go breakfast expansion will kick off Oct. 30 at Bessie Carmichael ES. Grab n Go is being implemented at Marina MS and Tenderloin ES this year as well.

Ed also reported on a new breakfast program at Charles Drew ES. After it was learned that the buses are late almost every day and the caf workers had left by the time students arrived, SNS implemented an extended breakfast period. The employees stay later and the school allows the children to take enough time to eat. Breakfast participation expanded from 40 to 100 per day after the program began. Charles Drew will also be a pilot site for the new hot breakfasts.

Dana noted that the extended breakfast isn't feasible at most schools because they can't afford to cut into the mandated instructional time. Charles Drew can do it because as a Dream School it has a longer school day.

In response to a question about how the hot breakfast will differ from the current menu, Ed said that elementary schools haven't had hot breakfasts for some time. They were not terribly successful in the past, but are being tried again. They will include such items as French toast sticks, waffles and breakfast pizza.

c. Status of grant proposal

Colleen Kavanagh reported on a grant proposal for a districtwide Point of Sale swipe-card system. It's underway and she has e-mailed Ed Wilkins and Matt Kelemen for required information and is awaiting their responses.

It was asked whether SFUSD can implement the Grab n Go breakfast everywhere if the district gets a systemwide POS system. Dana said yes, for every school that wants it.

Colleen said she needs a letter from a Board of Education member. Dana said Jill Wynns has written one in the past and can update it. California NOW has already written a letter of support. A letter from a principal is needed, and Dana requested letters of support from participants at the meeting.

Also in regards to grants, Colleen asked Ed for a wish list, prioritized.

e. Publicity

Caroline Grannan reported on press coverage, which she said has taken on a life of its own. The PBS production California Connected did an Oct. 13 show on Berkeley's school food innovations that also gave favorable coverage to SFUSD's food policy. It addressed the Grab n Go at Balboa HS and filmed the school lunch at Tenderloin Community ES.

KCBS radio did a segment on the Grab n Go expansion that ran Oct. 3.

The Aug. 28 San Francisco Chronicle did a Page 1 story that featured four Bay Area activists making improvements in school food and focused on Dana Woldow and the SFUSD food policy.

4. School health programs

Meyla Ruwin gave an update. The Nutrition Education Program has expanded from 14 to 18 elementary schools.

5. Lillie Kocher of the American Cancer Society was introduced. She described coordinated school health programs. ACS is seeking students who might like to do community service to help at the breast cancer walk on Oct. 24.

6. New business: Meyla reported that an evaluation of the Wellness Policy needs to be done this year. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 16, 2007.