



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2022

12:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

Committee members present: Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase, Dr. Roger Bloom, Mary O’Neill, Robert Stein, Michael Hardy, Karen Suarez, Todd Goodwin, Elaine Lovell, Juanita Sherwood, Debbie Wachter, Doric Capsis, Cheri DeBellis, Patrick McGovern, Francis Goodness, Kerri O’Donnell (Aramark), Rachel Castillo, Guy Forman, Grace Maschinski (Aramark)

Committee members absent: Dana Docar, Karla Paz, Angela Diglio, Andrea Ramos, Gary O’Grady (Aramark)

The virtual meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. Mary O’Neill, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

1. **SEL (Social Emotional Learning)**

Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase commented on this topic explaining that a new bracelet will be distributed shortly that relates to the SEL program at the District. Ms. Theresa Williams has been meeting with staff, administrators and building Principals to discuss SEL topics. There will be a District event in May for the entire District that involve a full day of SEL related activities. Information is forthcoming. Our SEL wellness is relevant to all district members.

She announced that Ms. Mary O’Neill was unanimously voted in as the District Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations at last night’s Board meeting and congratulated Ms. O’Neill on a job well done. She welcomed Ms. O’Neill to the District and commended her on all her hard work on last night’s budget presentation.

2. **Menu Carb Counts**

Kerri – she worked with Robert to create the link and to post it on the website with the menu broken out by grade level. The ingredient and carb count is available on the website now.

Penfold – She is unable to see the menu or any information on the carb count. Any updates with the changes in menus? Every day the fruits are different than what is on the menu? Every day the menu is different than what is actually being given. It can be a significant difference i.e. says bananas or clementines. Must calculate for diabetic children. She must be informed. Her diabetic had to be re-dosed due to the menu not being listed correctly. A whole grain roll and other carbs were not listed on the website menu that were actually served to the students.

Kerri – They are dealing with supply chain issues. They are working out the issues as best they can. She will follow up and get Laura Penfold her cell phone number to call her in the future should the need arise.

Karen Suarez – The food served at Dryden is not what is specified on the menu. The foods being served are not on the specified menu.

3. **Dragon Café Update**

Kerri – the opening has been successful. They are serving burgers, sandwiches and some a la carte items such as popcorn and cookies. They have seen a \$100 to \$150 per day increase since they have opened the a la carte menus. They are updating signage that should be installed by the end of next week. They would like to have a grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony once everything has been completed.

Dr. Chase – Thanked Aramark (Kerri) for all of their hard work on a last minute timeline. She mentioned that she recognizes that they have really tried hard to implement everything on a timely basis. She was gracious for their hard work. She attended a conference where her Aramark bosses were there and she informed them that Aramark is delivering their best efforts and clarifying questions were asked and matched Kerri's questions. She praised her for her efforts.

Penfold – at the last meeting we discussed grab and go bites being offered at the cafeteria. Will we be able to fix this and offer it next year?

Kerri – They have strict guidelines that they must follow. As far as grab and go items, can they be served in the classrooms.

Penfold - Last time she mentioned children are served a lot of sugar and too much carbs and not enough protein.

Kerri – They can update the menus in May to include more yogurt and protein. Serving food in the classroom is the most successful means of getting food served to Elementary level students in the classrooms. They can look into serving more hot items to create variety.

Penfold – She understands the challenge but it does not negate the fact that not enough protein is being served to the students.

Kerri – She will add more items to the next menu in May to address diabetics.

4. Water Fountains

Water Fountains – Guy Forman the bottle fillers can be operated but not from the bubbler. Powells has 2, the HS 2, Drexel 2, Dryden 1, MS 5, Park 2 they are located throughout the buildings. That is the what is opened as the moment due to COVID19 regulations.

Penfold – the budget is being used for cups. They need cups. Some kids don't have bottles; they cannot afford them. The fountains are a moot point if the kids can't get the bottles/cups to use to fill with water.

Dougherty – Water is a considerable problem on so many levels. Disruptive when students asking for cups all day. She did not know about the COVID 19 guidelines for the bubblers. Even in the cafeteria, there should be big pitchers with water so they can access it with lunch or breakfast. She has 200-300 pound kids doing athletics with headaches they she feels are dehydrated. Where is the guidance on turning the bubblers back on?

Forman – they are waiting to get the clearance to turn the bubblers back on. As far as the other issues with water, it needs to be addressed by staff.

Penfold – she is trying to educate the kids on dehydration.

O'Neill – would kids use bottles if we purchased them for them to use.

Goodwin – we should buy them and tell students to leave them in school. At Park Avenue we have 2 bottle fillers that are close together so students have to walk pretty far to get water. He recommends adding another water station/fountain spread out for the children to access it easily.

Lovell – Where are we with the status of the Wellness Policy.

O'Neill – Let's hold off on the Wellness Policy until we finish with the Fountain issue.

Lovell – the Policy says that drinking water is available for students with their meals. She is referring to the 2016 policy. Has it been updated?

Stein – We are still reviewing the finalizing a new policy. We will want to review any changes with the committee before we discuss it with the Board members, Ms. Wilson and Dr. Dickerson. We are operating with the 2016 copy.

McGovern – He stumbled across a custodian replacing a filter last week. The filter is showing that need to be replaced, but the light is not resetting. So staff members are leery to use the water fountain. The filters are fresh, but the light is saying that it is not.

Forman – Mr. Hardy has been working on this.

Hardy – We just went through and sent the custodians a tutorial to show them how to reset them.

Stein – On the topic of water, he and Kerri spoke of the HS that they needed cups. Can they put them at the cafeteria and at the nurse's stations?

Kerri – She can provide cups to all sites and can have them by next week.

Sherwood – She noticed that children are re-using the cups that were distributed prior and reusing them.

Dougherty – suggested getting Dragons water bottles and putting the childrens' names with Sharpie markers on them for reuse.

Sherwood – This is a great idea and brand our logo. This would require the Superintendent's approval. Would be a great fundraiser.

McGovern – The HS is always looking for ways to raise funds.

O'Neill- Karen has her hand up.

Karen – Is there a way to get an additional water filler at Dryden?

O'Neill – How much do water bottle fillers cost?

Forman – Supplied and installed about \$7,500.00 each.

O'Neill – She will look to see if there is any grant funding they can use to purchase more.

Sherwood – It would be great.

McGovern – We would like to have one in the weight room if you are planning forward for the athletes and students.

5. **Food Service Comments**

O'Neill are there any comments?

Lovell – Trailers – Are they being used? The CO?

Mary – This is not part of the Health and Wellness Committee. We received the CO.

Lovell – I think it is part of the Wellness committee because I understand we have the trailers due to ventilation issues.

Mary – The trailers are in use due to ventilation issues. The ventilation projects have not received final approval from state ed.

Stein – we did review the responsibilities of the committees. The Safety/Security Committee handles Facilities issues. The trailers would fall under the Safety/Security Committee.

Lovell – In the past, Nutrition was a single issue and a single meeting. I don't think there is enough time and effort being put into the nutrition. It doesn't seem like enough time is being put into the nutrition items in this meetings what they are eating health wise, but also their well-being on a whole. She wants to get back to what they were doing before with regard to nutrition.

McGovern – He agrees with her on a lot of levels. He emailed Mary in the beginning of the year and Committee description are now on the website now and it helped him. He thinks moving forward, when we have issues with items can we earmark. He remarked about yesterday's meeting that was cancelled. Items such as the blue lights need to be addressed.

O'Neill – Yesterday's meeting was cancelled because we did not hear back from anyone about any agenda items that anyone wanted included on the agenda. She would appreciate it if everyone can respond next time with any items they would like addressed.

McGovern – He apologized that he did not send in any items for yesterday's meeting.

O'Neill – If anyone has a concern, she would hope that if someone has an issue with a building, etc., we should not be holding them until a meeting. Many items can be addressed prior to a meeting.

McGovern – He is linked to many issues with buildings. Building reps that contact him claim that they are not receiving a response to their requests.

O'Neill – If you have an issue that is not getting addressed, speak with the building Principal, Mr. Forman or myself so we can address the issue.

McGovern – He is the rep so employees take issues to him.

O'Neill – Please feel free to reach out to any of the admin team if something can be addressed prior. Please do not feel that you have to wait until the next scheduled meeting to address items that may need immediate attention.

The meeting ended at 12:43 p.m.

Follow up items:

- Research implementing fountains in schools. (Stein/Forman)
- Follow up status of the Wellness Policy (Committee)

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott on behalf of Mary O'Neill and Robert Stein