



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2022

12:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

Committee members present: Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase, Dr. Roger Bloom, Robert Stein, Michael Hardy, Karen Suarez, Todd Goodwin, Elaine Lovell, Juanita Sherwood, Debbie Wachter, Doric Capsis, Patrick McGovern, Kerri O’Donnell (Aramark), Grace Maschinski (Aramark), Dana Docar, Angela Diglio, Gary O’Grady (Aramark)

Committee members absent: Karla Paz, Andrea Ramos, Mary O’Neill, Cheri DeBellis, Francis Goodness, Rachel Castillo, Guy Forman, Laura Penfold

The virtual meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. Robert Stein, Assistant Business Administrator for Operations, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

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

Dr. Chase had nothing to report however, she thanked all schools for participating in SEL day. She mentioned that the District plans to host this event annually. It was a very successful day. The District received great news coverage regarding the event. The students participated in activities embodying the day.

2. **Chopped**

Kerri and Gary – Last Tuesday, May 17th they hosted Westbury’s first Chopped event. It was a group of 20 MS students paired with an adult, a police officer, a fire dept rep, Dr. Sanz, 4 teams, first round appetizer, one was eliminated, then led to entre round. One got eliminated then had 10 minutes to do a desert. Got a lot of good feedback and kids want to do 20 minutes of a champion. The kids want to do it more in the future.

Stein – The kids were so excited to partake in the event. The entire event was a huge success.

3. **Special Menus**

Gary – they met with the students at a nutrition meeting for May and June. They did a meal of roast pork, beans and rice. It was a huge hit. For June they plan to do a west Indian dish like jerk chicken to the menus. They want to continue cultural traditions to a feature item weekly, monthly or several times a month. The students love that idea.

4. **Drinking Water Fountains**

Stein – they will be distributing drinking cups to various nursing stations within the next week. They are looking to retrofit the existing fountains.

Docar – can the District hand out free water bottles to each student at the beginning of the year so they can have easier access to water throughout the day.

Stein – He will look into getting more cups.

Goodwin – can we spend money to get more cups.

Jacobowitz – she feels the past suggestion of getting personal water bottles was a good one.

Goodwin – We should be providing students with access to water.

Stein- we are looking to get water fountains for \$76,000 actively pursuing it but looking to get a grant to finance it.

Dougherty – She tried not to fill up email with research on water. She was in conference with water guy to turn on the water fountains. She was hoping this could be done by next week. The law is that students are supposed to have water. There is a whole thing about funding and glasses and how to increase availability of water for students. It would be a great fundraiser.

Stein – He is looking into water bottles. The bubblers are not turned on for concern of student's mouths touching the opening. We will be adding another 19 water bottle fillers once the grant comes through.

Dougherty – she would like to see water be available to the students in the cafeteria.

Lovell – Thank you Ms. Dougherty for taking the initiative to provide the students with water for students available at their meals. We must make sure water is safe for our children. It is my hope that we will look into that with our kids. We must make this happen. We must make sure that this happens.

Stein – If the District were to provide cups, can the HS and MS provide ice?

Maschinski – of the District can provide cups they can provide water.

The HS and MS have 2 cafeterias.

Stein – He will instruct Ms. Terrasi to order for both locations

Sherwood – She would need a few in their building so students won't need to walk far to get water. I still see kids using the cups provided in the past.

Jacobowitz – Elementary students are still eating in classrooms.

Sherwood – Students are still going in the hallway to fill up their cup.

Dr. Chase – we are focused on getting through Iglo – work with ms. O'Neill to get bottles for all students. It is imperative that we hydrate our students and hydrate them. Especially since the warm weather is approaching it is imperative for students to hydrate. We will all get on that ASAP. Thank you all to identify this issue and solve the issue.

5. **Food Service Comments**

Suarez – thank you to Aramark. Communication has been improved. Teachers are complaining about whole peppers coming in the bags that were dirty and whole individually wrapped. They see progress coming along.

Kerri – She will have Susan Terrasi follow up with them. They will continue progress.

Goodwin – will we be back in cafeteria next year?

Dr. Chase – Yes, that is the plan. Thank you to Aramark for helping with Chopped and SEL day. Our students had a great time. The Dragon theme turned out to be a lot of fun and for it being a huge success. Dr. Bloom thank you for hosting it. The Elementary students asked for it to be extended to them next year.

Stein – If there are no other comments related to the Food Service, I open it to any additional comments to the Health and Wellness Committee. We will address the water issue ASAP and circle back on that.

The meeting ended at 12:31 p.m.

Follow up items:

- Address drinking water issue. (Stein/Forman)

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 13, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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