

WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

1. Opening Exercises

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order

C. Roll Call

Kerry Sittler, Board Member-present

April Walker, Board Member-present (via phone conference)

Additional Attendees:

John Corby, Interim Superintendent

Edward Rarick, Business Administrator

Nicole Hayes, Food Service Director

Connie Ahner, Secretary

Amanda Citro, Secretary

2. Wellness Committee Review

A. Introduction of Food Service Director

N. Hayes started on July 16, 2021. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Albright College.

B. Review of Recent Cafeteria Menus

January lunch menus were reviewed. N. Hayes explained that due to availability concerns, they are posting lunch menus two weeks in advance as opposed to the entire month. Lunch menus are published on Nutrislice and are kept up to date with any menu changes, as they occur. All three buildings have a "grab and go" breakfast and for lunches, students are eating in the cafeteria. There are numerous options for lunch: a daily hot option and two alternates, a salad option, pizza option and yogurt parfait option.

J. Corby asked if any students have to pay for the basic lunch option this year. N. Hayes stated that no, they are free for all students under the Seamless Summer option. Students do still have to pay for any a la cart options they choose. Each student has an account and parents can load funds onto the account through the website.

J. Corby stated that he had an opportunity to walk through the Middle School cafeteria during lunch recently. He noticed that the lunches were well run and students were spaced out appropriately.

The a la cart price list was reviewed and it was noted that these prices are Board approved on a yearly basis.

N. Hayes discussed after school meals that are available at the Middle School and High School, Monday through Thursday. N. Hayes reported that in September there was an average of 78 students participating, that number changed to an average of 532 in October, 362 in November and 462 in December. At the Elementary Center, there is the SHINE program, which is an after school program that helps students with homework and provides a meal. This program runs from Monday through Thursday and, currently, there are 33 students participating.

K. Sittler asked if the meals are also free for the SHINE program students and the after school meals at the High School and Middle School. N. Hayes answered in that yes, they are.

3. Procurement Review of Regulations

A. Wellness Advisory Board and Meeting Discussion

E. Rarick reviewed the PDE audit that was recently conducted for food service. There were two minor issues reported.

Per Regulation 7 CFR 210.16 Food service management companies.

(a) *General*...Any school food authority that employs a food service management company in the operation of its nonprofit school food service shall: (8) Establish an advisory board composed of parents, teachers, and students to assist in menu planning. Due to COVID-19, there was not a Wellness Advisory Council formed during the 2021-2022 school year. This will be starting again this school year.

B. On-Site Monitoring

Per regulation 7 CFR 210.16 Food service management companies. (a.m.) *General*. ... Any school food authority that employs a food service management company in the operation of its nonprofit school food service shall: (3) Monitor the food service operation through periodic onsite visits... Due to COVID-19, there was no on-site monitoring during the 2021-2022 school year. This will also begin this school year.

4. COVID Protocols and Concerns

C. Staffing Discussion and Concerns

N. Hayes reported that staff are masked during the preparation and serving of meals. If there is a positive case of COVID-19, the school nurses are utilized for guidance. Currently, there are three members of the nutrition staff out due to COVID-19. E. Rarick asked if there are extra cleaning measures taking place. N. Hayes responded that yes, they have increased their cleaning efforts and the student tables are sanitized in between meals.

N. Hayes reported that there are currently 25 staff members in the nutrition department. 10 at the Elementary Center, 5 at the Middle School, 8 at the High School and 2 at the Mahoning Valley Academy. The only open positions are for substitutes. Right now, if multiple staff members are out at the same location (currently 3; 1 at High School and 2 at Elementary Center), she moves staff from other buildings to accommodate.

E. Rarick noted that last year, due to COVID-19, students were spread out into alternate locations other than the cafeteria for lunch. He asked if there are any more staff needed to accommodate the students being moved back to the cafeteria. N. Hayes stated that no, there is not. They did bring back lunch aids this year, who are a big help.

J. Corby asked about product availability. N. Hayes reviewed vendors. Reinhardt is the main supplier with Sysco as the back up. Shy is used for produce, Hersey for ice cream products, Morbido for bread and Zimmerman's Dairy for milk. Reinhardt is also a backup for all of these products.

N. Hayes reported that in the fall of this year, they had issues with getting breaded chicken products and had to switch to nonbreaded products, which were not as popular. Since then, she was able to get a breaded chicken product that is similar to what they had been serving and the issue has been resolved.

N. Hayes explained that their order with Reinhardt's is due on Mondays by 9:00 a.m. and by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday she is notified by Reinhardt's of any products that are not available and alternative, similar options so that the alternative option can be considered and possibly ordered as a replacement. The order is then received on Thursday.

N. Hayes reported that there was a trucking issue with Reinhardt in the Spring of 2021. This was due to COVID-19 and Reinhardt's not having enough drivers. They utilized Sysco as a backup, during this time.

K. Sittler asked if there are any products that we currently cannot get in. N. Hayes reported that most items are available but she has had some trouble with cups and lids.

J. Corby asked how we gauge what students will want. N. Hayes reported that they track production records, make notes and refer back to them. For instance, they have noticed that breakfast for lunch is a popular item with the students. J. Corby suggested that we invite students to come to meetings to give feedback as this was a past practice of his and always resulted in successful outcomes.

K. Sittler asked N. Hayes if she was aware of any lunches running out of food as she has heard that this occurs sometime at the High School during the last of their three lunches. N. Hayes stated that she was not aware of this but would speak with her staff at the High School to address the concerns and add more meals.

5. Communications

A. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

B. Meeting Announcements

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2022.

E. Rarick asked if the Board members have any suggestions as to parents who would be interested in participating in the advisory council. A. Walker asked if we could advertise to seek out interested parents, staff and students. E. Rarick responded in that yes, he will have this posted on the website to try to get parents as well as a variety of students from each of the buildings.

C. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.