



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2024

12:00 p.m. – In Person Meeting – Zaino Conference Room

Committee members present: Giuseppe Alviano, Dr. Roger Bloom, Doric Capsis, Todd Goodwin, Rowena Jeffrey, Elaine Lovell, Grace Machinski, Patrick McGovern, Christine Miller, Kerri O'Donnell, Mary O'Neill, Anthony Servidio, Robert Stein, Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams

Committee members not present: Richard Canalini, Racheal Castillo, Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase Angela Diglio, Dana Docar, Eleanor Dougherty, Michael Hardy, Laura Penfold, Andrea Ramos, Pasquale Romeo, Karen Suarez

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The Health and Wellness Committee meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. Mary O'Neill, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. Robert Stein, Assistant Business Administrator for Operations, introduced the District's new School Lunch Manager, Rowena Jeffrey, to the committee and explained that she will be managing the food services team.

1. **SEL** (Social Emotional Learning) - Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams gave a brief synopsis of the most recent SEL initiatives which include hosting the second annual SEL Fair at the High School this past September, this year's upcoming SEL Day being held in May, #Advocacy, and she informed the committee that a new districtwide SEL newsletter will be rolled out in February 2024.
2. **School Lunch Manager Position** – Robert Stein informed the committee that Rowena Jeffrey has been appointed as the District's School Lunch Manager effective December 2023. Rowena brings along 23 years experience in the industry. In this role, she will supervise 50 food service workers and perform evaluations for the staff, along with other assigned tasks.
3. **Kitchen Equipment** – Robert Stein provided the committee with an update on the C-Fund Excess Balance. The District will be purchasing new kitchen equipment for the District which will include a walk in outdoor freezer, 5 ovens, serving bins, hard wash sinks, turbo ovens at the Middle School and High School, and cafeteria tables and chairs, amongst other items.
4. **Wellness Policy 5405** – Robert Stein informed the committee that Rowena Jeffrey is working with the Aramark Food Services team to update the District's current Wellness Policy 5405. They will provide the committee with a "draft" of the policy update at the next scheduled committee meeting on May 9, 2024.

5. **Questions from Committee** – Questions were presented by Ms. Elaine Lovell regarding various topics such as confirming that Boar’s Head products are being served to the students, the Master Chef’s assigned role and related duties, updates on the water fountains, vending machines, water bottles and whether or not there are enough cooks. Other concerns included offering organic foods on the school menus and working with Babylon Farms to implement hydro gardens throughout the District.

6. **Food Service Comments** – Kerri O’Donnell provided the committee with an update on the latest Aramark initiatives which include holding student nutrition meetings at each school to explore new food options and what current options are working and which are not, implementing food tastings throughout the District, new menu items that are being offered at the Middle School and High School such as jerk chicken wraps, Dutch waffles, Halal food, etc., and holding various special food days, such as “National Sauce Day”, National Bagel Day, etc.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** May 9, 2024 – High School Library – 12-1 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott