



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2026

12:00 p.m. – In Person (Zaino Conference Room) and Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Committee members present: Rowena Jeffrey, Courtney Hamilton (Aramark), Kerri O'Donnell (Aramark), Robert Stein, Dr. Roger Bloom, Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase, Brian Sudran

Committee members attended virtually: Giuseppe Alviano, Anthony Servidio, Karen Suarez, Todd Goodwin, Doric Capsis, Mary O'Neill

Committee members not present: Andrea Ramos, Richard Canalini, Grace Machinski, Laura Penfold, Dr. Theresa Williams, Elaine Lovell, Rachael Castillo, Philip McCarthy, Mike Hardy

The Health and Wellness Committee meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Zaino Conference Room and virtually.

- 1) **SEL (Social Emotional Learning)** – Dr. Williams was not in attendance. Therefore, nothing was reported for SEL.
- 2) **Snow Day Meals** – The District reported that on Friday January 23rd, with combined efforts, the District and Aramark bagged prepare at home breakfast and lunch meals to be consumed by the students on Monday, January 26 (schools closed due to snowstorm). The meal bags distributed were as follows: High School 25 (SAT Day), Middle School 500, Drexel Avenue 436, Dryden Street 248, Park Avenue 424, Powells Lane 419.
- 3) **Ramadan Meals** – the District applied for and was granted a waiver to provide Ramadan Meals by the NYSED. During the period February 23 to March 17, the District will provide Halal friendly breakfast and lunch meals at the end of the day to scholars who sign up.
- 4) **Breakfast Meals** – Recently at a Board Meeting, concern was raised regarding Rice Krispie Treats being served for breakfast. Upon further review the next day with the Districts School Lunch Manager and Aramark it was confirmed that Rice Krispie Treats are not served for breakfast unless it was in error. It was also reviewed that the Rice Krispie Treats that are served on an a la carte basis by Aramark meet all USDA Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines and they are very different from the Rice Krispie Treats provided in local supermarkets.

The Districts Breakfast Menu's were reviewed by the Committee.

Breakfast Carts

Served Daily: Egg Sandwich, Bagel w/Jelly, Cream Cheese or Butter, Cereal, Cold Assorted Cereal Bars ,Pop-Tarts, Fruit and Juice Bags, Milk, Assorted, Yogurt Parfait (*Menued at Elementary's*)

Menued (not served daily): Cinnamon Roll / Bun, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Crescent Roll, Chocolate, Donuts, French Toast Sticks w/syrup, Frudel, Apple, Muffin - Blueberry / Choc Chip, Pancakes, Mini, Confetti w/syrup, Waffles, Mini w/syrup

All breakfast items fit within the USDA guidelines.

5) **Aramark Report** – Courtney Hamilton reported on the following items.

- a. The Breakfast Menu – all menu items being served meet the criteria set by nutritional standards.
- b. Special Middle School Breakfast Event – The Special MS breakfast event was successful. Students are requesting a change in the breakfast menu. Aramark is working on implementing changes to the menu.
- c. Student Nutrition Meetings – Aramark has been conducting student nutrition meetings with the various schools and will be meeting with the High School and Powells in January. To date, they have met with all other schools.
- d. Dinner Program – In October, November and December the CCLC grant was delayed due to government funding. The CCLC grant was recently approved, and the dinner program will now resume. Students have requested more hot meals be served for dinner. There could be over 1,000 participants in the CCLC program. Sample hot meals include crispy chicken sandwich, spicy chicken sandwich, pizza and chicken Caesar wraps. They will also be considering serving more ethnic meal choices such as jerk chicken and halal. They are also working on implementing meals to go where a student is able to sign up on a Google form and take the meals to go for students celebrating a holiday who did not get to eat during the day.
- e. Meal Participation – the serving numbers were lower at the beginning of the school year due to new arrival procedures, cell phone bans and changes in daily procedure. However, lunch numbers are up over the prior year.
- f. Aramark is working on a student viewpoint survey.

6) **Food Service Comments** – Some teachers expressed concerns over sending younger students home with milk and juices in their backpacks due to the possibility of food spoilage or leakage. In addition, some students go straight to daycare, and some may not remember to remove the food when they arrive home.

7) **Questions from the Committee** – There were no additional questions from the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m. The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026, in the Zaino Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott