



**IROQUOIS CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Business Office

**Mr. John Wolski,**  
**Business Administrator**  
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**Nutrition/Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2025**

**1. Open Meeting**

**- John**

a. Attendance:

John Wolski

Heather Becker

Doug Beetow

Kim Ries

Debbie Becker (Absent)

Erin Watkins

Perry Schmidt (Absent)

**2. Review of Minutes**

**-John**

a. Minutes from **March 13, 2025.**

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

**3. Old Business**

**a) Farm-to-School Initiative**

**-Kim**

There have been no changes with this program. We are still progressing by trying to purchase as many New York State products/produce as possible. John reviews all invoices from local farmers that are submitted by Kim for payment.

*Personal Touch continuously works to increase the percentage of farm fresh items offered to students toward the farm-to-school initiative.*

*The NYS Supply Chain Assistance Fund is used to purchase produce from local farms like Bipperts and Eden Valley. The original amount available to us in December 2023 was \$58,663.00 and our current balance of approximately **\$22,936.25 as of 5/8/25.***

**b) Nurse staffing updates**

**-John**

John indicated that we are fully staffed with nurses in all our buildings. Our floater nurse helps with field trips and scheduled days off. Currently, we are not using outside agencies to fill internal positions, which is very costly. John is still covering the Nurse Coordinator duties but will be trying to find someone to fill the position soon.

**c) High School Cafeteria**

**-John**

Doug Beetow agreed that all is going well in the High School cafeteria.

John mentioned that the dishwashers in the High School and Middle School are scheduled to be replaced over the summer. Kim said that the High School dishwasher is leaking very badly. They will wait to replace the dishwasher in the Intermediate School cafeteria until next year as they are extremely expensive due to being all stainless steel and industrial strength.

**d) Cafeteria Fund Balance**

**-John**

John has Kim's wish list of other items needed for the upcoming year to address the estimated increase in volume if meals are free. Several more items may need to be added or replaced - one school is asking for an additional cooler. The higher volume of products purchased will require our Messenger to transport more items to each school daily.

Our District may only have a certain dollar amount in the Fund Balance at the end of the year as NYS does not want us to accumulate too much money. During our Annual Review NYS requires us to develop a plan on how to spend the money.

**e) Website**

**-John/Kim**

The website and menus now include information on how parents can make a payment on their child's lunch account without being charged the transaction service fee through MySchoolBucks.

Kim heard that since students' meals are expected to be free next year, and that MySchoolBucks will not be charging a service fee. ***She will confirm that information with Debbie Becker.***

Personal Touch bought a new LINQ software program for menus that links nutritional facts to every menu item. It is scheduled to be implemented and ready for the upcoming school year. All the districts will be using this program.

**f) Meal Modification Plan/Procedures**

**-John**

The Meal Modification Plan procedures are not listed on the website as it is something that Jackie Ginter felt that parents should specifically request. Only the food allergy procedures are listed.

**g) NYS Health Inspections**

**- Kim**

The follow-up to the health inspection has been completed and the issue resolved. Paula has completed all the internal reviews of breakfast and lunch transactions at each building.

**h) Free & Reduced Meals:**

John stated that the Governor's NYS Budget passed, and each student will receive a free breakfast and lunch daily. The specifics have not been announced yet. They are still working through the details, and he thinks that they made changes to the aid formula as it cannot be driven by Free/Reduced data. He does not think that parents would complete an application when all students are free. They will somehow need to change the matrix to measure the level of economic poverty. Doug asked if the free/reduced information is needed for grants. John said that there are some grant applications that do request this information be provided.

Doug also asked if a message will be placed on the website indicating that NYS has approved one free breakfast and lunch for students and the rules that apply.

Kim just hired three people for the upcoming year. We advertise for Personal Touch on our website.

Kim mentioned that Personal Touch will not provide a free summer meal program at Iroquois. She is planning to order flyers to post and distribute to students that will direct parents where they can pick up meals in this area (Orchard Park or Cheektowaga.)

**i) New Proposed Programs: (Perry Schmidt)**

This subject was not discussed at this meeting.

*Perry explained two exciting new programs, currently being piloted on the private side, that he would like to implement next year at Iroquois:*

*Program #1-Think...Wegmans, "free" samples of food items are given out to students during their lunch period. The dietician works with the chef on improving the taste and cooking methods of low selling items and creates different options. Perry would be at the table providing nutritional information as well.*

*Program #2-After-school "Kids in The Kitchen" A group of students are selected who would come in after school to assist the kitchen staff in prepping for the next day. They have tried one group of elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders) but would be open to any age group. It spreads awareness and gets them trying different things.*

**5. Other Concerns:**

**6. Meeting Dates for 2025-2026:**

**7. Adjournment**