



HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2026

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

Committee members present: Rowena Jeffrey, Courtney Hamilton (Aramark), Kerri O'Donnell (Aramark), Robert Stein, Dr. Roger Bloom, Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase, Brian Sudran, Todd Goodwin (HS), Mary O'Neill, Mike Hardy, Anthony Servidio, Giuseppe Alviano (Powells Lane), Jonathan Gill

Committee members not present: Andrea Ramos, Richard Canalini, Grace Machinski, Laura Penfold, Rachael Castillo, Philip McCarthy, Karen Suarez

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

1) **Aramark Report**

Food Colorings and Dyes

Going forward, a-la-carte items will not have additives or dyes in them such as Doritos, Chips, etc., effective the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

Menu Update – Limited Time Offerings

Aramark has been collaborating with Principals, etc., at the schools to find out what the student favorites are. They have rolled out the LTO – Limited Time Offer items at the HS and MS. One initiative is that they can now on board them. They will be on boarded by a location need basis. Some examples are the crunch burger, chicken sandwich. They provided a handout that outlines their LTO items. They will provide data at our next meeting regarding results of the roll out.

Addition of Cultural Menu Items – They are offering additional cultural items. Not all cultural items offered would be appealing taste-wise to all. They want to incorporate these items to the secondary level students, such as a pupusa, chicken carnitas, arroyos con pollo, arroyos con frijole, empanadas (from scratch), plantains, rice, beans.

Food Survey – In the Spring of 2026, Aramark conducted a survey for the Principals and the Students. The Principals gave an overall rating of 87%. Ratings per category were as follows: Program 4.0 out of 5, Staff 4.5 out of 5, Management Team 4.5 out of 5, Catering 4.7 out of 5. Aramark stated that the Program at a 4.0 out of 5.0 is an opportunity to improve.

The student survey gave an overall ranking of 6.3 out of 10. The national average for overall ranking is 6.1 out of 10. 1,164 students out of 4,100 or 28% took the survey. 28% is a rather high rating compared to other schools that Aramark services.

Aramark continues to monitor the results to see where room for improvement lies, and to focus on opportunities for change.

The Committee asked the following questions:

Did different grades receive the same survey? (Answer: yes)

Can Aramark tailor the survey to the age group they are surveying? (Aramark will investigate this)

What languages is the survey offered in? (Answer: English and Spanish but the hope is to extend it to other languages such as Creole)

Aramark stated that due to the cell phone ban, they are unable to poll during school hours and that the survey is now more geared to take at home. It was noted that if IT and teachers could assist in conducting the surveys during instructional time, they may be able to obtain a higher percentage of participants. However, one Committee member suggested doing the survey during Dragon time, which is the 3rd period. Everyone is online at that time.

- 2) **Aramark General Manager/Food Service Director** - Robert Stein announced that Kerri O'Donnell, who had been Aramark's General Manager for the District for the past 5 years, would be receiving a promotion to District Manager in October. Courtney Hamilton who has been the Food Service Director, will be promoted to General Manager. Kerri, as District Manager, will be overseeing 16 schools, including Westbury. Aramark will be interviewing for the Position of Food Service Director, and they will present the finalists to Westbury for a final decision.
- 3) **Food Service Comments** – There were no comments, however, Dr. Chase asked if Aramark would be providing food for the pancake breakfast. They do not. Ms. Lomax will be contacting Rowena Jeffrey, the District's School Lunch Manager, to coordinate.

4) **Questions/Comments from the Committee**

Could a Vending Machine be installed in the Powells Faculty Lounge? – Kerri O'Donnell stated that she had reached out to the vendor to see if this would be possible.

SEL Fair – It was announced that the District will be taking a pause on the SEL fair this year and will be restructuring it for the following year. Going forward, Ms. Deadre Faulkner will be leading the SEL fair.

SEL Signs – Going forward, the District will be using the electronic signs for the SEL word of the month rather than the signs that were posted on the outside of the buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott