



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connecticut

**Food Service Task Force Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Meeting held via Zoom**

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by Mr. Thomas Lamb.

Attendees: Mr. Matt Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Dr. Michael Finley, Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. Baron Young, Mr. Mike Degen, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas, Ms. Jennifer Punzo

**II. Introductions
And
Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**III. Food Service
Update:** Food Service continues preparations for the end of the 2023-2024 school year, 2024 summer meals, and the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. May 3, 2024 was School Lunch Hero Day which was celebrated by thanking the Food Service Department for their many accomplishments.

**IV. Update on
Plan for
Expanding
Access to
Locally-
Grown Healthy,
Sustainable
Food,
Decreasing
Packaging
Waste,
and Increasing
Opportunities
For Food
Donation, Food Rescue,
and Composting** There are no updates at this time. Mr. Wilcox recommended reaching out to Mr. Steve Winter regarding the composting and recycling aspect of the plan and protentional new state legislature. Mr. Lamb has a meeting scheduled to discuss sustainability and climate resolution the week of May 13, 2024.

**V. Updates from
School Break
Groceries
Subgroup:** The food distribution for April 16, 2024 yielded 1,200 bags of food and 8,000 pounds of produce from combined monetary and food donations. There was less turnout than in December. Mr. Degen discussed the summer meals promotion and plans to add a link onto the United Way website giving information regarding New Haven Public Schools summer meals program



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connecticut

and the State Summer EBT program. A discussion ensued and included the following:

- a. Working on future sustainability of distributions
 - b. Discussing funding needed for August and future distributions
 - c. Ascertaining methods to use to inform parents of distributions via the New Haven Public Schools Office of Youth Family and Community Engagement, New Haven Department of Parks and Recreation, parent liaisons, and social workers
-

VI: Other Business:

Mr. Wilcox reminded the team that the Food Allergy Policy plan is to be updated before the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Wilcox suggested there be a provision added to the policy that will allow a feedback loop regarding children with life-threatening allergies who are not eating the alternative food choices and a way for that information to be shared with the Food Service Department. The Food Allergy Plan Update will be added to the June and July Food Service Task Force meeting agendas.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2024.

Adjournment:

On the Motion by Mr. Matt Wilcox to adjourn at 4:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Myers

Cheryl Myers
Central Kitchen
Account Clerk IV