

Newport Public Schools
Wellness Subcommittee
Minutes from October 2, 2008

I. Opening

Dr. Galvin called the meeting to order.

Members Present:

Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Superintendent
Mrs. Becky Bolan, Parent
Ms. Kerry Clougher, Parent
Mrs. Amy Donnelly Roche, Director of Student Services
Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines, School Comm.
Dr. Tom Galvin, School Comm.
Ms. Solange Morrissette, Sodexo
Ms. Judi Smith, RN, Newport Hospital
Ms. Judith Webb, Community Member

Members Absent:

Mr. Arthur Bell, Jr. Supervisor for PE/Health Instruction
Ms. Jeannette Bessinger, Parent
Ms. Susan Cooper, Newport City
Mrs. Meg Edward, Parent
Ms. Donna Johnson, Parent
Ms. Denise Kelly, School Nurse Teacher
Ms. Carolyn May- Martin, School Nurse Teacher
Mr. Peter Millinazzo, Newport County YMCA
Mrs. Lenny Phelan, Newport Hospital
Mr. Richard Ratcliff, Parent

Non-members Present:

Ms. Christine Arouth, Sullivan Family Center
Ms. Samantha Brinz, Sullivan Family Center
Ms. Kerry Kunze, Sodexo
Ms. Sarah Mermin, Parent
Ms. Margot Pires, EBCAP
Ms. Carole Toselli, Kids First RI

II. Introductions & Updates

Dr. Galvin reviewed the progress that this sub-committee has made, and noted that he would not be expanding this sub-committee at this time, as he is resigning from the School Committee. He noted that he respects that the next chairperson will need to make those decisions.

III. Betcha' Can!

Dr. Ambrogi introduced Ms. Arouth, who reviewed the school department's recently awarded Carol M. White Physical Activity grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant is for one year, with a two year possible extension and provides curriculum training for physical education teachers, paraprofessionals, lunch aides, and staff from community-based after-school programs. The kick off will occur this Saturday morning in conjunction with the debut of the newly upgraded basketball courts at Sullivan School. The event runs from 11:00AM-1:00PM. More details were provided in a handout, which is attached to these notes.

IV. Update from Sodexo

Ms. Morrissette introduced her colleague, Ms. Kunze, who is taking on the responsibilities that were previously Mr. LeTang's.

Ms. Morrissette then provided a written report for the sub-committee, which is attached. She highlighted the increasing popularity of fresh fruit and salads across all schools. The group reviewed photographs from a recent display station at Thompson Middle School, featuring fajitas. Ms. Morrissette explained that display stations such as these are used to highlight new menu items.

National School Lunch Week is October 13-17. The Color My World grant for \$13,000 will be beginning at Sullivan School, and feature fruits and vegetables for all student's to try, in addition to the school lunch program. Ms. Morrissette thanked Ms. Mays-Martin, School Nurse Teacher, for supporting this initiative.

Dr. Galvin noted that while fruits are more popular, he has the impression that vegetables are less so. Ms. Webb noted that most, but not all, schools were cutting oranges when she toured the lunchrooms. Ms. Morrissette noted that all schools are cutting oranges now.

Ms. Clougher noted that she has seen more food being thrown away since the district implemented the full serve option. The group discussed that this may be expected at first, as part of the change process.

Ms. Toselli offered continued taste tasting. She noted that if a pattern of certain foods being thrown away became apparent, students could be provided with taste tests.

The question of compliance with the Rhode Island Nutritional Requirements (RINR) 2009 was raised. Ms. Morrissette noted that her goal is compliance prior to the end of this school year. She said Sodexo is well on the way to this goal, with the biggest hurdle being sodium content. Sodium content is an issue not just for Newport, but state-wide.

V. Additional Discussion

Ms. Webb asked about the Blue Cross Muni Blue program. Dr. Ambrogi explained that Muni Blue is a staff wellness program that is in place, with monthly updates and guidance for all Newport Public Schools employees.

Dr. Galvin noted that there has been an update to the state laws regarding peanut/tree nut allergies. Ms. Donnelly Roche noted that she had reviewed the changes to the regulations with all the school-nurse teachers and that we are in full compliance with all requirements.

Ms. Clougher requested that the sub-committee meet more often in order to plan for full compliance with the RINR 2009. Dr. Ambrogi and Ms. Gaines both expressed their understanding that the compliance is really Sodexo's work, as a contractor for the Newport Public Schools. Ms. Morrissette said that we are already eighty-five percent in compliance. Sodium is the only real matter remaining.

VI. Future Meetings

The next Wellness Committee meeting will be Thursday, December 4, at Carey School. The meeting will start at 3:00 PM.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Galvin concluded the meeting.