

Newport Public Schools
Wellness Subcommittee
Minutes from August 18, 2008

I. Opening

Dr. Galvin called the meeting to order.

Members Present:

Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Superintendent
Ms. Jeannette Bessinger, Parent
Ms. Judy Smith, RN, Newport Hospital
Dr. Tom Galvin, School Comm.
Mrs. Amy Donnelly Roche, Director of Student Services
Ms. Carolyn May Martin, School Nurse Teacher
Ms. Solange Morrissette, Sodexho
Ms. Judith Webb, Community Member

Members Absent:

Ms. M. Jane Barry, Retired Nurse Educator
Mr. Arthur Bell, Jr. Supervisor for PE/Health Instruction
Mrs. Becky Bolan, Parent Ms. Donna Johnson, Parent
Ms. Susan Cooper, Newport City
Mrs. Meg Edward, Parent
Mrs. Lenny Phelan, Newport Hospital
Ms. Kerry Clougher, Parent
Mr. Richard Ratcliff, Parent
Ms. Denise Kelly, School Nurse Teacher
Mr. Peter Millinazzo, Newport County YMCA

Non-members Present:

Ms. Sandra Flowers

II. Introductions & Updates

Drs. Ambrogi and Galvin provided background on the rationale and background of this group, and the agenda for today. They also reviewed the progress that this sub-committee has made, and shared a list of current members.

III. Nutritious Meals

Dr. Ambrogi noted that all Newport elementary school students will receive a full healthy meal in compliance with the FDA's "Serve" program starting next month. This is a change from the past, where students were given the option of choosing items.

Ms. Morrissette brought the draft September menu, with samples for the group. Samples included Thanksgiving wraps, black bean salads, Asian chicken salads, and turkey wraps. All salads and marinades are made with fat-free dressing. The group noted that they tasted good. Children's resistance to new foods was discussed, and Ms. Morrissette noted that she puts new items on the menu at least four times before assuming the children are familiar/comfortable eating them.

It was also noted that nutritional guidelines are being finalized by the Rhode Island Department of Education and RI Kids Count. They are still in development, and slated to go into effect one year from now, in September 2009.

Questions were raised about how much of our food has already been ordered. Thirty to forty percent of our menu items come from state purchased commodities.

Possible deductions being considered in the final stages of this food service contractual agreement are the removal of styrofoam trays, and the streamlining of all procedures across all elementary schools.

Ideas for the School Committee's consideration in future requests for proposals and contractual discussions for food service were generated:

- a. Consider limiting a-la carte items to one per child at the elementary level.
- b. Consider raising the cost of all meals in order to support more expensive menu items that are valued by subcommittee members.
- c. Consider extra staff members at the larger elementary schools.

IV. Additional Discussion

A. Clarifying Staff Responsibilities

Ms. Gaines noted that principals should be in the cafeterias to supervise and manage lunch periods. Dr. Ambrogi stated he would emphasize the importance of their presence, yet noted that administrators have many other responsibilities as instructional leaders.

B. Public Relations re the new menu

Dr. Galvin will contact Ms. Sean Flynn to share the many upcoming changes to our school nutrition programs. Ms. Morrisette offered her support in this.

V. Follow-Up Needed

<i>What</i>	<i>By Whom</i>	<i>By When</i>
a. Observe at cafeteria routines and structures at Sullivan School.	J. Ambrogi	09/15/08
b. Meet with principals re new "Serve" programs. Review structures to ensure that elementary children eat a healthy lunch prior to purchasing a la carte items.	J. Ambrogi A. Donnelly Roche	09/01/08
c. Email suggested subcommittee members to Dr. Galvin.	All	09/01/08
d. Invite more parents to join this subcommittee.	T. Galvin	09/15/08
d. Schedule next subcommittee meeting at end of September, at Cranston- Calvert.	J. Ambrogi M. Saunders	09/15/08

VI. Future Meetings

The next Wellness Committee meeting will be scheduled by Drs. Galvin and Ambrogi. It is slated to occur at the end of September, at Cranston- Calvert. The agenda will be to a) share feedback regarding our new elementary menu system and b) review the success of our newly designated cafeteria spaces at Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, and Carey.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Galvin concluded the meeting.