

## **PAWTUCKET WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts**

**350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

**Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 3:00 PM**

**Welcome**

- **Introduction of Participants**

**The Wellness Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.**

**by Joanne**

**Bonollo, Committee Chair. Attending members were Joanne Bonoilo, Solange Morrissette,**

**Miriam Plitt and Laurie Dufault. Ronnie Cremonini was also present.**

**Due to other commit-**

**ments, Linda Mendonca and Kim Mercer attended briefly.**

**Ms. Bonollo introduced attending committee members. Ronnie Cremonini asked Ms.**

**Bonollo to provide a current list of committee members.**

**Public Participation - None.**

**Old Business**

- **Program and Presentation**

**Solange Morrissette distributed and reviewed "Food Program Guidelines" and**

**"Suggested Content Items." Copies are on file in the Superintendent's office. Committee**

**members discussed possible logistics and procedures along with student needs. The following**

**points were noted:**

**&#9632; If the District is not already a 501(c)(3), it will need to establish this or perhaps collaborate with the Providence Back to School Celebration program, which is a 501(c)(3). Ms. Morrissette will contact Jorgey Cardenas regarding the latter option.**

**&#9632; Members of the Wellness Committee will plan a visit to the Food Bank of Rhode Island.**

**&#9632; Estimated cost of the Program is \$5.00 per month or \$80.00 per year, per student.**

**&#9632; Sodexo has 10,000 pieces of food items to donate.**

**&#9632; Determined the schools most in need: Baldwin ES, Cunningham ES and Winters ES.**

**&#9632; Per Ms. Bonollo, Mary Parella, Director of COZ, has volunteered participants in the program to assist in packing backpacks. In addition, perhaps students in need of a community project could assist.**

**&#9632; Utilizing Jenks JHS as the program base would enable an array of people to work on the project.**

**&#9632; Participants in the Backpack Program are anonymous, and guidance counselors will handle all communication with students.**

**&#9632; Backpacks are distributed weekly on Friday to ensure students are fed over the weekend.**

**&#9632; The schedule will consist of picking up food on Wednesday, packing on Thursday, distributing on Friday with backpacks being returned on Monday.**

**&#9632; Ms. Morrissette suggested establishing the program at one school (Baldwin ES) and adding each school in succession.**

**&#9632; In addition to food items, there is a need for toiletries.**

**&#9632; Food items may need to be portioned to prevent waste (i.e., a loaf of bread).**

**&#9632; Create a team to solicit donations. Solange Morrissette will contact the PawSox organization.**

**&#9632; Laurie Dufault volunteered to pick up food at the food bank.**

**&#9632; Linda Mendonca volunteered to contact Baldwin ES to determine the number of students in need. The criteria for a student in need - "The kid is not being fed." Ms.**

**Mendonca will find out who the school contact/point person will be.**

**Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.**

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BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM GUIDEUNES**

**OBJECTIVE;** To eliminate hunger on weekends for students of Sodexo-partnered school districts by providing the students with non-perishable foods rrr backpacks.

**PROCESS:** The Backpack Food Program provides backpacks filled with nutritious, e'asy-to-prepare, non-perishable food for students who are at risk for hunger when free or reduced-price school meals are not available.

Backpacks are discreetly distributed to deserving students on the last school day (Friday) prior to a weekend or holiday vacation, and are returned on the next school day (Monday).

### **GETTING A PROGRAM STARTED**

Talk about establishing the Backpack Food Program with the following people, starting with your DM:

- District R/fariager
- Foodservice team
- Client contact person
- School Board (after talking with the client and with his/her permission)
- Local Feeding America affiliated food bank or local community food bank.

**Note:** to locate a Food Bank in your area, go to

### **TYPICAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Successful programs include cooperation from all partners.
  - o Food Bank—will provide food to be distributed in backpacks (typically on Fridays).

**Note:** grant money available to defray cost of food. .Beyond grant

**money, GWI should**

**factor in cost of food. Example: Some food banks charge for their food.**

**o School counselor—will determine/select recipients for the Backpacks. .**

**Note: all recipients should remain anonymous to Sodexo and the Food Bank.**

**o Sodexo team—serves as the liaison between the Food Bank and the school. While Sodexo's**

**role will vary among different locations, the Sodexo team will often provide volunteers to collate**

**the backpacks and take them to the designated area for distribution.**

**• Program logistics must be mutually agreed upon by the Food Bank team and the Sodexo team, including but not limited to:**

**o Pickup and/or delivery of the food**

**o Type of donated food that is both nutritious and kid-friendly (Utilize a Sodexo Dietitian to determine nutritious content.)**

**o Other ongoing support to sustain the program**

**o Supply and/or purchase backpacks**

## **PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**• Sodexo GM and team may want to raise funds to support the local Food Bank for the Backpack Food Program as part of Sodexo Servathon.**

**• Foodservice team may want to work with the school's Student**

**Council or other student group who want to volunteer for community service (assistance packing the backpacks, fund raising, etc).**

**• Sodexo GM or DM may apply for a Sodexo Foundation grant August through September 30. Grants are provided directly to the local Food Bank to help offset cost of food for this innovative program.**

**(The grant request form is posted on SodexoNet, keyword search: Backpack Food Program)**

**For more information contact Shondra Jenkins, , 800 763 3946 ext, 44322**

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#### **SUGGESTED CONTENT ITEMS**

**JAR OF JELLY**

**JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER**

**LOAF OF BREAD**

**CAN OF TUNA FISH**

**BREAKFAST BARS**

**BREAKFAST CEREAL - BULK**

**BREAKFAST CEREAL - BOWL PACK**

**MACARONI AND CHEESE**

**PASTA AND CAN SAUCE**

**RICE# BEANS**

**CAN AND RAVIOLI**

**CANNEb SOUP**

**CANNEb CHILI**

**RAMEN NOObLES**

**SMALL CANS OF FRUIT**

**SMALL CANS OF VEGETABLES**

**FRUIT JUICE**

**HEALTHY SNACKS**

**KEEP IN MIND THE PACKS SHOULD NEVER WEIGH MORE THAN 15  
LBS**