

SNP - School Nutritional Partnership 10-21-11

Present: Mari Millery, Susan Saar, Lisa Jasinowski, Jennifer Schindler (Wellness intern), Ms. Chory, Ms. Forrester

Ms. Chory addressed questions to Ms. Forrester, our DOE School Food District Coordinator who oversees the kitchen in our school:

Has there been salad bar every day? Has there been more than one of two items on the salad bar daily? Ms. F replied that every day they are required to serve either a hot vegetable or salad bar and since the kids don't like the hot vegetable, they have salad bar available every day. Ms. F reported that they are having some problems with ordering supplies this year. The school is receiving less than what she orders. There are shortages as a result. For example, certain fruits are not coming in. Sometimes they run out of the scheduled menu item and have to serve a backup item.

Has the new water cooler been available during lunch time every day?

Yes, it has been out and available. This week it was moved to a different location which seems to be working out better. There was a log jam with kids blocking the kitchen exit when they got water. Now it is located near the vending machine on the other side of the cafeteria. They all want water. Ms. F is concerned because less milk is being consumed, now that there is a water cooler – something like seven cases less. Susan asked what portion of those seven cases was chocolate milk. Ms. F did not know.

Can we have chicken on the bone twice a week since the kids like it and it's not a processed food? Ms. F said she will look into changing the order to twice a week and will get back to us to confirm.

Where are we with the kids trying the samples of new menu items? Has it started yet? Have the accompanying nutrition education classes started yet? Ms. F reported that there are equipment failure problems right now which are delaying the sampling getting started. The kitchen has lost a refrigerator and a freezer and until the new ones arrive that have been ordered (another month?), there isn't enough room to store the extra items needed to do the sampling project right now. Ms. F anticipates that by the time this committee meets again on November 18, the new equipment should be in place and the sampling and classes can be scheduled for late November or early December. The classes also will have to go on hold for now but can start in December. When during the school day can the classes be fit in? Ms. Chory says that teachers don't want it to interrupt instructional time, but announcements could be made in Pre-K, K, and 1st grade of lunch option changes. Snack time is a possibility (likely one class at a time) for the educational component. In the meantime, the kids did get to sample some hummus with pita chips yesterday (10/20/11). At the next meeting on November 18, Ms. Chory will work on a

schedule about which new food item will be sampled which week as well as which classes and which grade will get it and when. The nutrition classes will be about 20 minutes. Ms. F, Jen and Mari can talk about the curriculum before then. It will be a good idea to try to advertise to the parents about what is happening right after it happens, so they can reinforce and follow up. Ms. Chory said they could mention it in the Parent Bulletin and we could send it out on the e-group, Backpack News and possibly send a flyer home. We can try to advertise to the parents what the new menu items are in advance, once the refrigerator equipment issues have been resolved. Jennifer suggested sending a letter home to the parents so they know what is happening.

- Can some of the parents on the Wellness Committee get a little tour of the kitchen and see how the food is laid out for lunchtime?** Yes, no problem. There is a three-tiered basket for the fruit at the beginning of the food line. The salad bar is at the end of the line.
- Can the food be labeled so that the kids know what it is every day?** It's possible but it has to be looked into (about how to do it - laminated, etc.) for the hot food. There is no room on the salad bar to label things. But the salad dressing bottles can definitely be labeled. She will ask Ms. Tafe.
- Can a parent (who is a chef) use an induction burner as part of the nutrition classes?**

Ms. Chory said that it is unlikely because there are issues in the school with blowing fuses and losing lights in another classroom. (Please note that Susan spoke about this with Mr. Murphy the chief custodian, on October 26 and he said it could be worked out with extension cords, etc.)

- The next SNP meeting will be on Friday, November 18 at 7:45 am in Ms. Chory's office.**