

SEYMOUR
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Nutrition, Health, and Safety Committee
Minutes
May 5, 2009
Central Office
1:30 p.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Rhonda Geffert, Rose Marie Yitts, Jim Garofolo, MaryAnne Mascolo, Rick Belden

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Cindy Brooks recommends to the committee again this year that we do not participate in the Healthy Foods Certification program from the State of Connecticut. She does not want to be the "food police". The program is all encompassing; including dictating what foods can be sold as a fundraiser. In order to participate the entire district would have to follow the guidelines as set forth by the State of Connecticut. When this program first started the state would pay ten cents per meal to participating schools but they are now proposing a cut to seven cents per meal. Cindy feels we have a good program currently. She feels that we now follow the healthy food program but without the stringent guidelines dictating other food items such as fundraisers. Currently, Cindy thinks there are approximately 116 school districts that are participating. West Haven School district participated in the first year but lost quite a bit of money due to the loss of fundraisers and is no longer participating. There was a discussion the on the chicken nuggets and why we do not have a white meat chicken nugget. Our nuggets are a dark/white meat blend. Cindy has looked into a turkey/chicken blend nugget for next year. Our nuggets are baked, not fried. White meat chicken nuggets will be more costly. Cindy does not plan on raising lunch prices next year.

MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts/Mrs. Garofolo) to recommend to the full board to decline participation in the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification program

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Garofolo

Rick noted that parents should recognize that although we do not participate in the Healthy Food Certification Program, we do follow the guidelines very closely.

Cindy reviewed the progress of our point of sale program. Cindy is very impressed with the reporting capability of the system. She actually was able to run a report that showed what kids were not eating. This gives her the ability to be in contact with parents to be sure the kids are not eating because of a problem (such as money). She had reiterated with parents that they can check the balance of their children's account. The system allows Cindy to track down errors with account balances such as the money was deposited into a wrong account or into a sibling's account. Finding and correcting the errors is much easier with this system. \$13,614 has gone through the online system, most of it at the middle and high school levels. The system is going well. During the summer, pictures will be transferred to the system from Rediker. Letters will be sent home at the end of the year explaining the balance will follow the child. It was suggested that at that time a little more advertising be done encouraging parents to participate. Kelly Grimme is working with TD Bank North to install a system that will deposit checks to the account with out the physical trip to the bank.

This system will be used by the secretaries also for checks collected for school activities such as field trips. It was recommended that when this system goes into effect, we make sure parents know their checks will clear within one day of receipt since currently they are used to having more time before the check clears. Mr. Belden said they would be sure to do this once the system is up and running.

MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert/Mrs. Yitts) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Garofolo

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
MaryAnne Mascolo