



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connecticut

**Food Service Task Force Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Meeting held via Zoom**

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by Dr. Orlando Yarborough.

Attendees: Dr. Orlando Yarborough (Chair), Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. Baron Young, Mr. Mike Degen, Ms. Susan Harris, Ms. Maria Karas

**II. Introductions
And
Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**III. Food Service
Update:** Food Service is simultaneously preparing for the end of the 2023-2024 school year activities, 2024 summer meals, and the 2024-2025 school year. From the previous meeting, Mr. Wilcox brought to attention that a student was not eating the alternative meals due to palatability. In response, Food Service is actively working on the implementation of a variety of new main entrees and alternative meals.

**IV. Update on
Plan for
Expanding
Access to
Locally-
Grown Healthy,
Sustainable
Food,
Decreasing
Packaging
Waste,
and Increasing
Opportunities
For Food
Donation, Food Rescue,
and Composting** There are no updates at this time.

**V. Updates from
School Break
Groceries
Subgroup:** The food distribution is all set for April 16, 2024 and is expected to yield 1,200 or more bags of food from combined monetary and food donations. An advocacy meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2024. This meeting will be used to brainstorm solutions for sustainable ways to provide funding toward future distributions and better serve students suffering from food



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insecurities. It is estimated that \$10,000-\$15,000 is needed to meet food demand during each school break. The gap in funding is estimated to be approximately \$8,000-\$10,000. Mr. Degen gave a brief synopsis of past and current practices in food deliveries during the breaks. A discussion ensued and included the following:

- a. Obtaining data from schools to accurately calculate the number of students/families who have food insecurities.
- b. Ascertaining methods to use to inform parents of distributions and other information related to food insecurity
- c. Discretely serving students/families who don't want others to know about their food insecurities.
- d. Preparing for summer meals
- e. Getting information to parents regarding the summer EBT program
- f. Forming partnerships with organizations that can help with future funding and food donations
- g. Reminding the team that the ultimate long-term goal is to create an annual funding program, develop partnerships, and establish future commitments to secure funding for food gaps.

VI: Other Business: There is no other business at this time.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Agenda items are due to Chair (Dr. Orlando Yarborough, III) and Vice-Chair (Matt Wilcox) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Adjournment: On the Motion by Dr. Orlando Yarborough to adjourn at 4:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Myers

Cheryl Myers
Central Kitchen
Administrative Assistant