

Minutes of the school food subcommittee meeting
November 3, 2008

Present: Libby Albert (DCYF), Paula Jones (DPH), Zetta Reicker (SF Food Systems), Marcia Wertz (UCSF), Dana Woldow (parent), Laura Brainin-Rodrigues (DPH), Mark Elkin (School Health Programs), Aileen Murphy (Wallenberg HS), Colleen Kavanagh (Campaign for Better Nutrition), Marguerite Nowak (SF Food Bank), Jacob Schreiber (student, Lowell HS)

Mark Elkin called the meeting to order at 4:05. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

Dana reported on behalf of Student Nutrition services, Loretta being absent due to illness. The preliminary number of student qualified for free/reduced price meals as of end of October is 54.7%; last year's total as of end of December was 53%. The number of student remaining with no meal application on file is down from 26.16% in early October to 18.34% at the end of the month. Aileen indicated that Principals have not been reminded to continue to collect meal applications, nor have they been provided with lists of names of students who still have no app on file, as has happened in prior years. Dana said she would discuss with SNS and try to get reminders out. It was reported that the hot breakfast pilot is being enthusiastically embraced at some elementary schools but not at others. Reasons why the program might not be accepted as readily at some schools were proposed, but it was suggested that a survey could be done of Principals in both high-success and low-success schools, in terms of rate of return of meal apps and support for the hot breakfast. It was thought that talking to Principals would help identify the blocks to successful collection of apps, and for support for the meal program, and also help identify winning strategies for high return of meal apps, as well as identifying how schools which have embraced the hot breakfast overcome the barriers, particularly around staffing the cafeteria during breakfast. Libby volunteered to have her intern take on this project. Suggestions for questions to ask on the survey should be sent to her e-mail libby@dcyf.org

Colleen gave an update on upcoming legislation that might affect school meals. There is a possibility that the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act might get pushed back from 2009 to 2010. The School Nutrition Association doesn't want to reauthorize in 2009 unless there is significantly more money appropriated right away by the new administration. Other possible changes include the possibility of directly certifying students for free meals through Medicaid, and the possibility of using surveys rather than individual meal applications to qualify students.

Paula reported on the history of the school lunch program funding, including the revenue limit called Meals for Needy Pupils. Over 300 districts in California receive this revenue stream. San Francisco did have a meals for Needy pupils stream in the 1970s, but it was eliminated in 1976, shortly before the baseline year which was used to determine which districts would be able to continue to receive this money after prop 13 passed.

Colleen proposed forming a working group to brainstorm ideas for a reauthorization pilot project to improve funding and access to nutrition for school-aged kids in SFUSD. Anyone interested in working on ideas should contact her directly at colleenk@california.com

The next meeting will be on Wednesday December 3rd, **4:15-5:15** at 1515 Quintara St. Please note the later start time for this meeting!