

Minutes of the SFUSD Student Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee Meeting
January 17, 2006

Present: Fernando Ona, Meyla Ruwin, Ericka Lovrin, Laura Brainin-Rodriguez, Caroline Grannan, Ed Wilkins, Matt Kelemen, Jan Link, Dana Woldow

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

Dana reported that it is likely SNS is going to receive the grant which she and Ed applied for through the Department of Children Youth and Families. The grant would pay for the cost of a pilot Point of Sale (POS) system to be implemented at Balboa and another school, to help boost participation in the Grab n Go breakfast. The GnG will be piloted at one elementary school; schools being considered for the pilot have high rates of kids qualified for free or reduced lunch, relatively low current breakfast participation, high cash shortages, and early start times, among other factors. The POS system would allow Balboa to run the breakfast program outside of the cafeteria – for example, just inside the front door to school, so that students entering could pick up breakfast literally on the way to class without a detour to the caf.

Dana played a DVD which the Balboa student nutrition committee made for broadcast on in-house BalTV, promoting the Grab n Go.

A document was distributed which described ways in which individuals and agencies who are interested in promoting better school nutrition can work with the committee and with SNS to accomplish that goal. Ed and Dana are often contacted by well-meaning individuals and groups who are trying to “reinvent the wheel”, apparently in ignorance of what has already been done on the issue of improving school food. The document provides history and also suggestions for areas which need help. Those who receive these minutes by e-mail will also receive the document as an attachment, and it will be posted on the sfusdfood website.

There was a discussion of ways in which SNS might be able to provide a larger variety of fresh fruit with the lunch program.

Ed reported that the contract for K-5 meals has been awarded to Preferred Meal Systems. It is a “menu-style” bid; Preferred will be providing all of the meal components (except milk) for breakfast and lunch, supplies, and also the afterschool snack. In addition, they will provide marketing and administrative support. They will assist with increasing participation in the lunch program, which has seen a decline of about 2000 students this year (district enrollment dropped by 1000.) There was a discussion of what might be causing the decline. It was suggested that it might be the result of requiring students qualified as “reduced” to provide a co-pay of 40 cents; some students literally might not have 40 cents per day. In the past, such students ate for free. Matt and Ed will look at the data to see if it supports this explanation.

Meyla reported that the first meeting of the Wellness Policy subcommittee will be on February 9th, 3:30-5pm at the office of the School Health Programs Department, 1515 Quintana @ 24th Avenue, right across from Lincoln High School. Anyone interested in making adjustments to the nutrition policy to make sure it meets the requirements of the federally mandated Wellness Policy, are invited to attend. RSVP to Meyla (mruwin@muse.sfusd.edu) or Dana (Nestwife@owlbaby.com)

Meyla announced two professional development events which her department is sponsoring:

1/18/06 Topic: Physical Activity (50 Elementary School Teachers)

2/1/06 Elementary Health Forum Topics: (Drug, Violence, Puberty) Nutrition curricula, including new versions of Reading Across My Pyramid (k-3) & Power Play (4-5); Dr. Andrea Garber from UCSF will present on Childhood Obesity.

Also, the Nutrition Education Project is expanding, having added three new sites (Sherman, El Dorado, and Mission Ed Center) and one more pending school closures.

1/25/06 Harvest of the Month is oranges. SHP will be delivering blood oranges to 250 teachers with lesson plans and activities for use in their classrooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18.

Next meeting: March 21st