

GPS Food Service Program Review Committee

Date: January 16, 2019

Place: Havemeyer Boardroom, 290 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Present: Committee: John Hopkins, Abbe Large, Jeff Ramer, Lauren Rabin (by telephone)
Guest: Ralph Mayo, Eugene Watts

Absent: Lori O'Donnell

The meeting was called to order by John Hopkins at 4:03 PM.

1. Amended draft minutes from the 12/21/18 and voted to approve the changes.
2. John handed out a draft RFP used by the State of Connecticut for soliciting FSMC to run a school district's USDA approved Food Service Program. The template was a protected PDF file with some Greenwich Public School information filled in. A discussion was had about the document and all the sections that would need to be customized to the Greenwich Public Schools. I.e. food specifications, employee retention, town assets (up keep). The committee discussed that the bidder(s) should be able to tell us, "what they can do for us" using options defined by the committee. The team discussed what some of those options might be but they have yet to be defined. Mr. Mayo clarified with Ms. Rabin that the BoE did in fact want an RFP issued so they could determine if out-sourcing should be implemented. Ms. Rabin confirmed the BoE's directive. Mr. Ramer asked Mr. Hopkins to develop food specifications for the RFP. Ms. Large commented that survey data be used to help define these specification. Mr. Ramer commented that the RFP should be an apple to apple comparison of our current service so the BET could see what cost remain with the town and what those cost will be. Mr. Ramer asked Mr. Hopkins to do all refinements in the RFP and bring to next meeting which was then set for March 13, 2019. (Later in the meeting this date would be rescinded and the direction of the committee would be changed)
3. The next discussion was about the innovative food concept/service RFP. Ms. Rabin and Ms. Large began to discuss some of their research and then asked to take a step back. Ms. Large discussed the fact that there was no mission statement for this district (with reference to school lunch?). She shared concerns about whose committee this was, who's responsible for the RFP, what are the goals. Ms. Rabin and Ms. Large stated there should be a mission statement. They expressed concerns about rushing into the wrong answer for this districts food service operation without a clear definition. Ms. Large thought it may take up to a year to define this. Mr. Ramer, while not wanting to delay for a year, agreed that there are many stakeholders in this process including but not limited to: students, parents,

education system and tax payers. At this point Ms. Large and Ms. Rabin began the discussion of a pilot program.

4. Ms. Large and Ms. Rabin began the discussion of piloting an innovative food concept/service at one or more schools for an extended period of time. The pilot would give the district time to evaluate if this concept could work without committing to a contract. Ms. Large briefed the committee on the company No-Fuss Lunch and how it could benefit the town; one example was; no cost to the town and actual revenue generation based on rental income paid by No-Fuss Lunch for kitchen use. She discussed how this business model will look with reference to kitchen use and employee use. Mr. Ramer asked for some clarification on employee usage (No-Fuss Lunch leasing current Town of Greenwich food service employees). Mr. Hopkins expressed some concerns on: union issues, liability issues, facility responsibility and employee supervision. Ms. Large discussed another concept using a food service consultant (Brigade) but once briefed on the concept, the committee decided not to pursue this.
5. Ms. Rabin expressed her intent to propose the pilot program to the Board of Education at its January 17, 2019 meeting as an agenda item for their February 21, 2019 meeting.
6. It was agreed upon by the committee and a next meeting date was set for February 28, 2019 to debrief the Board of Education discussion from their February 21, 2019 meeting.
7. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM