

GPS Food Service Program Review Committee

Date: February 28, 2019

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

Present: Committee: Lori O'Donnell, John Hopkins, Abbe Large, Jeff Ramer, Nerlyn Pierson, Lauren Rabin (by telephone)
Guest: Ralph Mayo, Eugene Watts, Pat Maranan

The meeting was called to order by Lori O'Donnell at 4:03 PM.

1. Amended draft minutes from the 12/21/18 to show that an RFP was not needed for a single source pilot program.
2. Ms. O'Donnell introduced Pat Maranan as the Finance Supervisor for the BOE and stated she would be in charge of the RFP process along with Eugene Watts. Also introduced was Nerlyn Pierson, Co-Chair of PTAC Health and Wellness.
3. Debrief of 2/21/2019 BOE Meeting was started by Ms. Rabin. She qualified several takeaways from that meeting: increase quality of the food in the current program, pilot an alternative program soliciting multiple vendors, supply information about finances of a pilot with reference to F&R population, supply financial model of what the pilot would look like/performa, define a success metric for the pilot when compared to current food service. Ms. Large commented that several staff (food service) members spoke at the BOE meeting and expressed they wanted to show off their talents, but hadn't had the opportunity. She spoke of Brigade (a consultant co., referenced last meeting) who now had more information on the state of food services in the Greenwich Schools and may be an option to improve the current program while staying on the NSLP and remaining self-operated (Brigade employees were identified in the audience). Ms. Pierson added that the Board was also interested in removing Styrofoam trays from the program. Ms. Large expressed that this decision (to outsource food services) needs to be carefully consider or we could wind up in the exact place 3 years from now.

A No-Fuss lunch representative (in audience) commented that signing with a FSMC will not change the status (with reference to food quality, regulations, etc.) from the current program. Ms. O'Donnell asked for a census of the committee to confirm that we are working on three items: NSLP RFP, Alternative/Innovative Food Company Pilot/RFP and improvements to the current program.

Ms. Pierson would like to see an approach that looks at the current state of the program with reference to menu. Her idea is to bring together a group of individuals (i.e. in-house food service management, outside/community nutritionist, dietician,

chef) develop an agreeable quality of food and then produce two menus. One menu for that meets the NSLP standard and one that wouldn't. Then ask the question can it be done in house and/or can an outside vendor produce our standard. Ms. O'Donnell said she would like to reach out to Ms. Pierson (and her group) to explore this concept.

Ms. Large and Ms. Rabin would like to see more detailed information on Free and Reduced Priced information regarding - eligibility, participation and reimbursements(\$) to be able to qualify how this variable will affect any decision regarding outsourcing/piloting. They would also like more detailed information on the food services P&L. Ms. O'Donnell agreed to this.

Mr. Ramer believes that we should have several options to present to the BOE, to include: self-op on and off NSLP, FMSC on and off NSLP, Boutique Co. on and off the NSLP.

Audience member Brigade (consultant firm hired by New London Schools) gave some feedback on their challenges in running a "from scratch" program on the NSLP. The challenges included: plate cost, labor, staff training. No-Fuss lunch agreed on the plate cost issue highlighting Bell and Evan's chicken fingers at \$2.20 a portion.

Ms. Pierson circled back to the Styrofoam tray issue in the schools and introduced Julie DesChamps (PTAC – Green Schools Committee) and felt that this issue should be resolved as soon as possible. Ms. DesChamps mentioned she had new information and would forward it to committee members.

Ms. Large revisited CEP (Community Eligible Provision) from an earlier meeting. Mr. Hopkins explained the concept of the program and reiterated that it would not be financially feasible for the two schools (New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue) to participate in the program.

Ms. O'Donnell ended the meeting at 5:15PM agreeing to contact Ms. Pierson regarding her comments and to supply more detailed financial information on the P&L for food services.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2019 at 11:00AM.