

Ledyard Public Schools
Student Wellness & Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, 3:30 PM

In attendance: Jennifer Eastborne, Jaylin Johnson, Calvin Miller, Elizabeth Overby, Siobhan Brannen, Michael Fusaro

Agenda available [here](#)

Meeting slide show available [here](#)

Meeting called to order - by Mike Fusaro at 3:33 PM

- I. Introduction**
- II. Reviewed minutes from March 2023 meeting**
- III. Menu/Meal requirements**
 - A. Reviewed USDA requirements for meals and how each meal offered meets those standards
 - B. Reviewed that if a student does not take a full meal it is considered a la carte or an incomplete meal, which is chargeable even for students for students who are in the free or reduced lunch program
- IV. Menu Development**
 - A. Elizabeth Overby / Director of Dining Services - Chartwells:
 1. Meets with staff and students to discuss what students are eating versus what is not being eaten
 2. Observes during lunch waves to see what sells, what students enjoy
 3. Serve in season local produce as much as possible
- V. Student events to promote new fruits and vegetables**
 - A. Mood Boost Table - this table has fruits and vegetables that most kids will not try on a regular basis. They explain what each food at this table does for your body and allows students to taste the options. Most recent event they had brussel sprouts, kiwi and chickpeas
 - B. Student Choice - will be promoting this in the high school, where students can try samples of new food options and vote which they would prefer using their smartphones, displayed in real time which food option is winning
- VI. Free and Reduced Lunch Program for 2023-24 School Year**
 - A. All students eligible to receive breakfast meals at no cost
 - B. Students who are eligible for reduced-price meals to receive a lunch at no cost
 - C. Students that don't qualify for free or reduced-price meals will be responsible to pay for lunch
 - D. At this time, we are not sure what the Free and Reduced Lunch program will look like next school year
 - E. Reviewed participation data for a recent 2 week period, approximately 57% of eligible students in the district took the free lunch
- VII. Open Discussion**
 - A. Asked the students in attendance why they thought the participation rate was not higher:
 1. Students may be packing their own lunch
 2. Students may not be aware that they qualify for the program
 - B. A parent asked if there was something that could be done so students that take the full reimbursable meal could "donate" the items they do not want so they do not go to waste
 1. The Director of Dining Services stated that we are working on getting "share" tables at each school, where students can put their unopened, uneaten food items and any student wanting the items on this table could take them
- VIII. Adjournment**
 - A. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM