

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 28, 2014

Type of Meeting: Work Session

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

Members Present: President Darlene E. Tangney
Vice President Stewart Mininsky
Board Member Roy Lester
Board Member Maureen Vrona

Members Absent: Board Member Ryan

Others Present: Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent
Dr. Kenneth Graham, Assistant Superintendent –
Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

I. Call to Order/Pledge-Board President

Call to Order/Pledge

President Tangney called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Report of the Superintendent
Work Session Topic: Food Services

Report of the Superintendent:
Work Session Topic: Food Services

Presentation: Food and Nutrition Services- Michael DeVito and Steven Kamlet

Highlights include: 2013-14 Profit and Loss, Historical view of Profit & Loss, Expenditures, Participation and Enrollment, Meal Costs and Revenue, Review and Plans for 2014-2015. Presentation can be located on-line and in the office of the District Clerk.

New initiatives include: staff training and development, maintenance of product ingredients/allergens, Life Skills students in the kitchen, HS vegetable composting, and building greenhouses. Privatization was offered as cost savings option. High food costs and high salaries blamed for losses.

III. Board Discussion of Work Session Topic

- President Tangney commended Mr. DeVito and Mr. Kamlet on their excellent presentation.
- Board Member Lester asked about cooking and service workers; is there any cooking in the elementary schools (no but there is prep); questioned the expenses of benefits since most food service workers are PT (still pay social security, Medicaid, etc.).
- Board Member Vrona asked if the majority of the benefit expenses were for the Full-Time staff members (yes).
- Vice President Mininsky thanked the presenters and asked if the lunch aides, cleaners are PT (yes). If outside contractors came in with new products, how much would the District save on the new brands (additional costs for lost/late deliveries at retail prices); also inquired about government food.
- Board Member Vrona asked if the students were eating. (Yes and no – participation has increased but kids don't eat fruit and vegetables). She asked about cafeteria cleaners (floor is custodial); remarked on the inflated revenue based on government monies (\$250K) subsidies; how did the District make money in 2006-2007 (salaries, a la carte menu more successful with products we can no longer sell); commented on the District being the first national program (works because local staff cares). Mrs. Vrona asked if the new guidelines were cutting into sales, waste for reimbursable meals (yes). Asked what percentage of income is from a la carte (much less).
- Board Member Lester questioned the a la carte and reimbursements and reiterated the request for numbers for a la carte revenue (data not available tonight); what cost would students have to pay to break even; asked about number of students eating in cafeteria (with closed campus every student is a potential customer); asked if the 30% of eligible free/reduced lunches were being purchased every day (no).
- President Tangney voiced concerns about reaching eligible families who are not presently registered for free/reduced meals; asked about outreach efforts to those families. (Social/emotional issues, dislike of food being served, lines, stigma). Suggested visit to MLK Center, other community centers. Mrs. Tangney asked about the impact of breakfast on the budget, food delivery to NIKE – have complaints been addressed (delivery issues).
- Board Member Vrona asked if the deliveries to the elementary schools created the same problems (no).

Board Discussion of Work Session Topic (continued)

- President Tangney noted that there is no cafeteria at NIKE; supports SUBWAY idea at HS using our own staff and products (being investigated). Steven Kamlet is looking at collegiate system model – different food stations – pizza upstairs, deli bar. Mrs. Tangney asked how the staff reductions would affect the students (minimal). Would it benefit the district if parents came in and food was showcased? (No because students buy the food). Mrs. Tangney suggested a student food survey, students on food committee.
- Board Member Vrona asked for the costs of the new model.
- Board Member Lester questioned the stigma of the use of ID cards (perceived); found differentials in calculations of per diem sales data (computer generated)
- Vice President Mininsky prefers alternatives to cutting staff.
- President Tangney commented on the lack of celebration of our staff and food service; cannot ignore fresh produce, life skills accomplishments, vegetable garden; should be showcasing it more; internship program at Farmers' Market; allergy awareness. Thanked the department.

IV. Questions and Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only

Questions and Comments from Public

- Steve Freeman – CPTA President - concurred with the thoroughness of the presentation; district must explore legal obligations to staff; violations of Taylor Law; workers live in Long Beach; noted that highest paid workers would be eligible for free lunch; mentioned withdrawal from government program; parents are incurring service charges for pre-paying. (No fee for check or cash – if we withdrew from government program we would have to pick up reimbursement costs).
- Dale Greenstein – 522 E. Olive Street- stated that applications are sent in summer and were available at the Parent Academy; suggested promotion at Parent/Teacher conferences, and other times of year since financial status can change. She ate the amazing lunches at MS and asked if teachers in other schools were able to buy lunch (no); food does not come out quickly enough; staff should be asked what people are eating.
- Michael Abneri – 94 Regent Drive – excellent presentation; as a Budget Advisory Committee member appreciates public discussion; questioned misinformation of committee on financials(eligibility); the idea was to get all possible students enrolled; revenue and loss slides are deceptive without interpretations – should state \$500k loss since we transferred monies to cover deficit (financial statement records). Mr. Abneri questioned the actual cost of lunch, mentioned the Long Island school lunch cooperative, increase price of lunch; must close deficit.

President Tangney asked for slides to be modified for accuracy (include all budget transfers).

- Anne Conway – 118 Audrey Drive – questioned the 2 lines in the cafeteria (expediency); asked if breakfast was served at morning care (no); suggested offering food at after care; supports composting; children will eat more produce if they are involved in growing it. (Students will manage gardens, guidelines will need to be met, filing for grants, gardening season is summer, need greenhouses).
- Joanne Rea – 95 Connecticut Ave – noted that statement is misleading; HS staff can be reduced to 2; Hurricane Sandy staffing worked because of fewer students; initiatives are great but need to rotate students; SO President Persaud should be asked to get a student committee together; suggested staff put tomato and lettuce on the plates for reimbursements. (HS already has committee; Golden Rule Club at Lindell; Principals put together 12-15 students to discuss food).
- Matthew Adler – 410 E. Broadway – thanked Dr. Ryan, President Tangney and Board Member Lester for their attendance at the hospital rally. He asked how cross-contamination was handled (separately prepared) and how equipment is sanitized. Presentation was phenomenal. Asked for presentations to be posted prior to meetings. Surprised that Diet Snapple could not be sold. Asked how many students cut lunch.
- Gerri Maquet – 523 E. State Street – noted that over 300 students do not take lunch because of their packed schedules; voiced concern over waste; are we promoting reimbursable lunches over a la carte; supports SUBWAY idea which may encourage library students (those who just do not like the cafeteria); turning cafeteria into more of a restaurant may help; does not support public display of applications. Main concern is timely service of food.
- Hope Prince – 37 Anchor Road – presentation was informative and honest. HS had something similar to SUBWAY in her day; suggested changing up the menu weekly; application should be posted on line (it is) and scrolled on banner with link to each school; supports MLK idea. CCPTA and all PTAs thank the School Board on School Board recognition week; presented Board Members with baskets.

V. Additional Board Comments

- President Tangney praised the PTA for being the backbone of the district; without parent involvement we would not be here today.
- Board Member Lester asked if the 3 components required for reimbursement included a drink. Mr. Kamlet explained that there are 5 components: milk, fruit, grain, meat and vegetable – one of the 3 required must be a fruit.

- Board Member Vrona asked if there are any legal ramifications for subsidies since the program is required to be self-sustaining. (don't know)

VI. President Tangney Called for Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Steve Freeman –CTA President – mentioned that \$800K was transferred into food services and asked if it covered all transfers (no); if ketchup was still considered a vegetable (no); asked how much of the \$2 billion technology bill would go to Long Beach and what is the payment schedule. (\$2 million – 15 year bond)
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. Long Beach Schools Employees Association – Joanne Rea – President presented Board Members with LBSEA sweatshirts in recognition of School Board Appreciation week.
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Gerri Maquet –asked that School Board Recognition Week be put back on the calendar.
5. Student Organization – None

President Tangney stated that she and Mr. Weiss had met with the City Manager and Scott Mandel regarding an Inter-municipal agreement; three Board Members participated in the NYSSBA convention. Information will be posted.

VII. President Tangney called for a motion to adjourn at 10:04 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Vice President Mininsky
Seconded by: Board Member Vrona
Approved: 5-0

Minutes submitted by: _____

Carole Butler, District Clerk
November 25, 2014