

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

*Wellness Policy Subcommittee  
of the Wellness Coalition*

March 5, 2010

Instructional Office Conference Room  
501 Kings Highway East  
Fairfield, CT 06825

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Minutes

1. Committee Members Present: David Abraham, Lori Mediate, Joann Fitzpatrick, Anne Tack, Analiese McCay, Michelle McCabe, Dr. Susanna Jalkut, Tom Cullen and Anna Cutaia-Leonard
2. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
3. An update on hand washing was provided by Anna Cutaia-Leonard. The topic was discussed at a recent elementary cabinet meeting where principals shared practices on improving the frequency of hand washing. Lori Mediate spoke with Joann Ryan who oversees the nursing staff in the schools. The nurses support hand washing practices in the following ways: email staff encouraging frequent reminders, teaching students with, displaying hand washing posters, sharing power point presentations at “town wide meetings” with students, information on websites, inclusion of articles in bulletins, the use of the germ light with students, and participation in the middle school poster contest (in partnership with Fairfield University). It was recommended that Scrubby Bear information be shared with parents in the future. Additionally, Anne Tack made the recommendation to include something in the teachers’ job description about hand washing. There was some discussion about this with varying views.
4. Analiese McCay shared the proposed PTA School Garden Guidelines. These guidelines will be shared with PTA Council leadership. The goal is to have finalized guidelines in place by September 2010. The PTA will also work with Dr. Rosato to identify curriculum connections.
5. The committee used the Questionable Ingredient Protocol to investigate the inclusion of trans fats in school lunch items. Although very few, a list of foods

was provided that include trans fats in them. The state of Connecticut has a health snacks standard that states that any food containing 0 to .5 \_\_\_\_ of trans fats can be considered to be an acceptable standard and allows a product to be referred to as “trans fat free”. The committee talked about focusing on hydrogenated oils in addition to trans fats. Joann Fitzpatrick will work on providing information on pizza alternatives that do not include trans fats. She will provide alternative options, price and other factors to consider.

Joann Fitzpatrick also shared information about the commodities process. In addition, she gave an update from the Federal Legislative Meeting that she attended recently.

6. Tom Cullen gave an update on Public Act 09-81: An Act Concern Green Cleaning Products in Schools. The green product work started in Fairfield Public Schools started in 2005. All floor, glass, power and disinfectant cleaners currently used are green. Research for green replacement products is being conducted for carpet cleaner, floor stripper and floor finishing wax. The goal is to have all green cleaning products by September 1, 2010. Mr. Cullen has met with staff twice this year already to discuss implementing Public Act 09-81. A state filing document also now has questions regarding our green practices.
7. The next meeting will include agenda items on Hand Washing Pilot and Menu Item Descriptions.
8. Future meetings will be held on April 9, May 7 and June 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. will be held on Friday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. with location to be determined.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.