

Minutes of January 16 Wellness Meeting

Present: Jen Harp, Mr. Pegan, Barb Weingart, Tina Winslow, Jake Hitchcock, Sue Benson, Judy McCord, Kathy Archer, Nancy Walker, Jen Osborne-Coy, Lisa Haltiner, Marcy Bova, Ellen Gerould, Tony Pisicoli

The December presentation by Bob Richmond and brief summary of some of the products Bob brought and talked about was discussed. In December, after Bob's presentation, Mr. Hitchcock's health class sampled and rated some of the products that had been provided. Some of the handouts Bob had were passed to committee members.

The Elementary Bulletin Board months for next school year were discussed. Group consensus was October 2008 and February 2009 would be the months of the Wellness Committee's responsibility.

The School Board Presentation was discussed. The committee feels this is a good opportunity to advocate some positive changes. There was discussion about the recommendation for the successor to Clara Winkleman who is retiring after this school year. It is felt that the successor to Clara have dietetic education and/ or certification who would over see menu planning, servings, etc. in accordance to the New York State School Policy Recommendations. The committee would also recommend because the cafeteria manager position would have a nutrition background/education this individual assist in ensuring compliancy with the School Nutrition Policy. Concern about the salary of such a position was expressed. Mr. Pegan explained this position could fall under recommendations for Shared Services Support. Possibly Westfield could share a employee with a nutrition background/certification with other districts and share purchasing power with other schools involved in this joint endeavor. A change would be recommended in September for a better transition.

The Newsletter Nutrition Nuggets was discussed. The newsletter will be renewed for next school year. The monthly publication will be placed on the school website and in the Wolverine. Copies will also be distributed at various public places to provide nutrition recommendations and information.

Discussion regarding the recent visit of Pepsi Bottling Group Food Representative, Mr. Dale Buehlmann was reported. He informed the school that the products in the Pepsi machines are not in compliance with the Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. School Policy. The Pepsi School Policy was written reflecting New York State School Nutrition Policy and also the recommendations of Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Since we are a K-12 building, unless the school is willing to sign a liability waiver, the elementary regulations should be followed. Aquafina water and Propel products fall into the elementary category. He further recommended since our school has no written contract with Pepsi, he advised implementing the Pepsi policy as soon as possible. Copies of the Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. School Policy were given to all members present.

It should be noted the only Pepsi machine that would offer other products other than what is mentioned above would be the machine in IMC. Students do not have access to that machine; this machine would not have to comply with the above.

Mr. Pegan will address the issue about the Pepsi machines and compliancy with the appropriate staff who are responsible for them. It was recommended, compliancy should be met by the time we return from February break.

The main emphasis at the meeting was that everyone needs to be working together positively to help in setting forth these changes. It is not the intention of this committee to offend anyone, any activity or any department. The committee's focus is to promote and support positive healthy changes in our school environment. Our committee cannot enforce; we can recommend and support healthy changes and policy in our school environment. Our focus at the board presentation will be positive recommendations and goals.

After discussion, it was also agreed upon; one of the goals for next school year is to review on our present Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy.

February 11th is our scheduled School Board presentation by the committee. On January 28th, Judy, Tony, Barb, Nancy, Jen Harp, and Jen Osborne- Coy will meet at 10:00 in the District Office to work on the presentation.

All committee members were asked to e- mail Jen Osborne – Coy their thoughts on recommendations and goals of our committee.

The committee will meet on February 5th at 3:30 to discuss and finalize the board presentation. Location is to be announced.

Jennifer Osborne-Coy's e-mail is: josborne-coy@wacs2.wnyric.org