

**PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD UFSD**  
**Wellness Committee**



**Minutes**  
**December 12, 2023**

**Present:** Nicole Ciminiello, Anthony Cracco, Dan Erwin, Theresa Deleva, Carolyn Walsh, Annette Mroczkowski, Alicia Salazar, Bernadette Smith, Thomas Piccirillo, Nicole Tiskevics, Dahryl Louis

**Absent:** Nancy Poulis, Chris Kelly, Karen Mendoza, Carisa Montalvo, Elsa Rodecker, Casandra Sabellico, Allyson Semple, Debbie Valenti, Marissa Girona, Rita Krepela, Jessica Guerra

**Note taker:** Nicole Ciminiello/ Anthony Cracco/Dan Erwin

	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
1.	Welcome/Introductions	Ms. Ciminiello welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Board of Education member, Bernadette Smith.
2.	Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)	Ms. Ciminiello asked Dan Erwin to explain what the Community Eligibility Provision is. Mr. Erwin explained to the committee it was a program that was being run by the Federal government and then being subsidized by the state that allows all students to eat for free. There was a certain percentage that had to be met for the students to eat for free and our district was able to hit that threshold which is 25%. Originally the percentage was 40% but legislation was passed, and the number was lowered to 25%. The program will run for four years. The percentage is based off the District's ISP number which is comprised of the District's population of SNAP, Medicaid, Homeless, Foster and Migrant students. This was great news.

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
3.	Short “How to Videos” -Ms. Krepela would like to utilize the Video Production Club at Saxton to make videos of “how to boil an egg”, “how to properly cut and peel a Mango”, “On the Go healthy snacks”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Krepela informed Ms. Ciminiello that the video production club did some short “how to videos” at Saxton and that they were being pushed onto the video monitors throughout the building. Ms. Krepela was hoping this could continue district wide. Daryl said he is part of the News Club, and he could see if this is something they could work on as well.</li> <li>• Ms. Ciminiello did mention that if there wasn’t the possibility of doing this at the High School, she could speak with Mr. James Richroath (Administrator of Technology) to push the videos that are being made at Saxton to all the other buildings.</li> <li>• Other ideas to push healthy initiatives were health classes doing PSA’s/projects on Anti-Vaping.</li> </ul>
4.	Elective Coarse- Teach students how to grow their own gardens, harvest and create farm to table meals, canning and preserving and running a small business in the food industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Krepela asked if that was a possibility. The committee agreed with Ms. Krepela and wondered if this was something that could be considered. Ms. Ciminiello stated this would have to be a cabinet level discussion, as there are many factors to involved.</li> <li>• While discussing the elective course, the conversation did evolve, and members were wondering what happened to the Tower Gardens? Ms. Ciminiello stated they are in the buildings, but not all of them are being used. The committee would like to know if this is something that can be brought back since they were successful with the lettuce being used in some of the kitchens.</li> </ul>
5.	Smoothie Kiosks	Ms. Krepela also inquired if it was possible to have smoothie kiosks. Mr. Erwin stated that this is something that can be taken into consideration but could be difficult because of staffing issues within his department.

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP</b>
	Other- Food Trucks	Daryl wanted to follow up to see if there was any more information regarding the possibility of food trucks. Mr. Erwin and Mr. Cracco explained this would be difficult to implement because of security reasons. Mr. Erwin also explained that the food most likely would not meet the USDA guidelines. Mr. Erwin informed the committee that he called Sachem's Food Service Director to gather more information and he was told that she was not being run by the School Lunch Program and that it was being run by another department or Administration.
	Kiosks-Lunch on the Go and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Breakfast	Committee members inquired as to what happened to the Kiosks. Mr. Erwin indicated when the District moved to the 9-period day that they were no longer needed. He also indicated that with staffing shortages it would be difficult to use them.
	Student Athletes-After School in the Cafeteria	It was brought to the Committee's attention that food was being sold to student athletes that are waiting in the cafeteria after school before sports begin. Sports are not allowed to start until 2:30 so the athletes must do a study hall until their coaches come and pick them up. The committee asked if it was possible for Mr. Erwin to sell items. Mr. Erwin explained that it would be difficult because of contractual obligations. His staff members leave prior to when the high school day is over.
		The meeting adjourned at 3:50.