

Parents Advisory Committee Meeting

November 18, 2021

Staff Present: Dr. Norm Miller, Dr. Erika Willis, Mr. Robert Horney, Mrs. Sharon Kidd and Mrs. Shannon Leib

Board Members: Ms. Beth Sviben

Community Coordinator: Mrs. Jackie Pendrak

Buildings Represented: CD East, CD Middle, CDE Middle, Linglestown Middle, Chambers Hill, E.H. Phillips, Mountain View, Paxtonia, Tri-Community, West Hanover

Cafeteria Services Update:

Mrs. Sharon Kidd, Senior Director of the Nutrition Group and Mr. Robert Horney, CDSB Director of Business Services, provided an update on cafeteria services.

Like other industries, COVID-19 continues to disrupt supply chain issues through worker shortages and walkouts. The shortage of truck drivers to receive and deliver product has had a major effect on cafeteria offers and availability.

Intermittently, there are issues with lack of burgers, pizza, chicken nuggets, hotdogs, rolls, etc. To combat this issue, the cafeteria group has been making their own pizza using French bread, making sandwiches on sliced bread in lieu of rolls and substituting alternative offerings that are traditionally on the menu.

For example, in lieu of offering chicken nuggets and hotdogs as a weekly ala carte item, they may only be offered every 2 weeks or once per month, dependent upon availability.

Cereal, breakfast bars and breakfast sandwiches are offered as breakfast items. Pastries, muffins, and French toast sticks will not be offered this school year due to supply issues.

Cafeteria Services has been innovative in creating their own “trays” to hold food due to supply issues with disposable trays and paper products.

Mrs. Kidd stated that they have had to cutback to provide a quality, consistent product. Parents will notice on the NutriSlice app that menus will only be available 1-2 weeks at a glance.

Mrs. Kidd realizes some of the limited offerings and lack of the “fan favorites” may disappoint students, but the goal is to reinvest and revamp the menu.

There is not a food shortage. There are many menu offerings available to students, even those with a discerning palate. They are still able to meet the needs of ALL students, even those with dietary needs.

Cafeteria Services will continue to work with multiple vendors to procure enough product.

At the Elementary level, students can receive a Main Option (regular, vegetarian or a Chef Salad); 3 cold vegetables and 3 fruits.

At the secondary level, students can receive the Main Option with vegetable and fruit. Additionally, food bars are available two times per week (Asian, Pasta). Salad bar, Wraps, and Pizza available 3 times per week. Soups are available as well.

Ala Carte items are available for purchase at all schools. They include fresh baked cookies, bagged snacks, soft pretzels, water, Iced tea, Capris Sun, Switch Drinks and Gatorade.

Essentially, prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Cafeteria Services was able to offer approximately 14 entrees. At the current time, they are offering 9 entrees.

Parents can upload money for ala carte items via the NutriSlice app or online under Cafeteria Services.

Mr. Horney stated that the number of students participating in breakfast and lunch continues to be at an all-time high. All CDS students receive free breakfast and lunch. The PEBT Benefit Cards will be issued this school year. The District does not have information, guidelines, or parameters on when they will be issued. CDS provides the data as requested.

Mr. Horney further stated that the CDS is unable to hold the Grab & Go Meal pick up for ALL students. The Grab & Go Meal Pick Up is for CDS Cyber School students only. Pick Ups are on Wednesdays and meals must be pre-ordered. There are currently 18-20 families that participate. This is regulated by the PA Department of Education Division of Food & Nutrition.

Photography Services Request for Proposal (RFP):

Mr. Horney discussed the upcoming RFP for photography services which is conducted annually. The District puts out the RFP and will traditionally receive 5-6 proposals. A district-wide committee comprised of a representative from all schools, the Athletic Directors and both high school yearbook advisors meet and select the top 3 or 4 vendors.

These vendors make a presentation to the group. The group selects the top vendor and makes a recommendation to the School Board of Directors.

The District pays nothing to the photography vendors and all commissions are returned to schools for their activity accounts.

As Mr. Horney receives comments from families about their experiences with the photography services, positive or negative, he passes those along to the vendor for their reference.

The next meeting is January 27, 2022 via Zoom.