

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JOINT PTO/PTA ADVISORY/FOOD SERVICE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM
35 WHEELBARROW LANE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Finkle, Mr. Hammell, Mr. Hennessey, Mrs. Padua and Mrs. Vineyard

ARRIVED LATE: Mr. DeNuzzo (6:45 p.m.)
Mr. Inglese, (6:57 p.m.)
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio (7:02 p.m.)
Mr. Travaglino, Director of Bldgs. & Grounds (6:54 p.m.)
Mr. Rizza, Director of Finance (7:00 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Serio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Meoli, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Martorella, Administrative Consultant to the Supt.
Mrs. Acquarulo, Director of Pupil Services
Mrs. Lewis, Finance Manager

1. OPEN MEETING

Mrs. Padua called to order the joint PTA/PTO Advisory/Food Service Subcommittee meeting at 6:33 p.m.

2. Discussion of Administrative Protocol for Healthy Food Choices

- **Classroom/School Celebrations**
- **Fundraising Activities**
- **Field Day Activities**

Mrs. Padua and Mrs. Vineyard introduced themselves to those who did not know them. There were representatives for all schools in attendance except one. Mrs. Padua explained that for birthday celebrations they needed to stick to the Healthy Food protocol. Holidays had a little more leeway. If you wanted to offer cupcakes, you needed to offer it with other healthy selections. For items offered in fundraisers, parents needed to pick the items up. As far as fundraising activities such as bingo or movie night outside of school hours, you could sell candy and baked goods because they were not in competition with the school lunch programs. Parents were then supervising what the children were eating. On field days, you couldn't provide lunch to the students unless you bought it from Food Service. It would take away money from the Board of Education for the free and reduced lunches. This document was drawn up so there would be a clearer understanding of what could and could not be done.

Mrs. Padua asked that Mr. Martorella explain more about the draft document. Mr. Martorella stated he thought that it was always a part of the policy and that there had been a little more flexibility in the “old days”. He thought a few years ago that they had started to enforce the no competition rule. Part of that was based in State law. He felt there was a gray line.

Mr. Finkle asked if there was any limitation to what the PTA could buy through -- could they buy Hummel hot dogs through the cafeteria? Mrs. Vineyard stated probably not -- not through the Healthy Food Program. Mr. Martorella stated they needed to stay within the limit of the law on a field day and serve lunch through the Food Service Program. After lunch was over, they could pretty much do whatever they wanted because they were not in competition with the lunch program. Parents could bring in an ice cream truck as long as they were not selling it to the kids. The Protocol does away with the principals’ discretion. Everyone does the same thing.

There was discussion on the hours allotted to each school for custodians when they had events at the schools. They all received 10 hours. There was some discussion about the possibility of requesting more hours. Mr. Martorella reminded everyone that the high school was available at no cost to all PTA groups in the evening. There was discussion on those schools that had night custodians and how if an event was held at those schools they still had to pay for a night custodian.

Mr. Finkle said, “If the PTA had to pay in a school where they had a night custodian, where did that money go? Was that just a general fund? Mrs. Lewis stated it went into the general fund to pay for custodial overtime.

Mr. Hammell suggested that the high school was open until 11 p.m. at no cost for custodians if someone had a pick up here. It was asked who would orchestrate that. There was some discussion with the parents regarding the cons of this and there was a suggestion that perhaps the Board of Education could foot the bill. Mr. Martorella felt it was not fair to taken Board of Ed money and divide it unequally. Each school had different needs and certain schools might have a lot of fundraisers and raise a lot of money and others not as many and raise considerably less during their fundraising. They wanted everything to be equal and consistent throughout the school system.

Mr. Serio stated this was not a new issue and the issue of overtime held them hostage to the bargaining unit contract. The high school was a community hub because it was not held hostage by bargaining unit contracts. They would not be able to afford all of the things that were now held at the high school. Mr. Serio suggested they look at the 10 hours to see if there was any flexibility there and what costs they would incur if they changed it. They would take it one day at a time and work out the details as they moved forward.

A parent asked, out of curiosity, if nobody bought lunch for one day at Carbone, what would they be missing for that one day. Mrs. Vineyard stated she would check that out.

Mr. Serio stated that was why when they had an early dismissal, they had to fit lunch in. During inclement weather, they had to maintain the staff and sales ran them into a deficit for that given day.

There was some discussion on the food that was served and Mrs. Vineyard stated it was on her agenda to get better lunches during the rest of the year. There was discussion on how certain foods on the menu did not seem healthy. It was explained that as long as it met the criteria it was okay. Mrs. Vineyard stated it was based on the percentage of fat. French fries were considered a vegetable. Mr. Martorella stated that the Food Service Department was in business to make a profit. They certify with the State, every single item they sell to a child in our system, and make sure it meets Connecticut nutritional standards.

The parents asked if they could meet again. Mrs. Padua spoke about approving the document as a protocol and they would follow up on the hours' flexibility to work with fundraisers. Mr. Martorella stated they would be approving administrative protocol not policy. The Board didn't need to approve.

Mrs. Padua stated the parents still had issues and were not ready to approve. Mrs. Vineyard felt there really wasn't any way around this. Mr. Martorella felt there wasn't really any flexibility because of the Healthy Food protocol and Free and Reduced Lunch Programs. Mr. Finkle questioned whether there was a law that mandates reimbursement. Mr. Martorella stated if there were vending machines in your schools, you could not sell anything to a student during lunch or breakfast or an hour before or after. Mr. Finkle stated so he was saying pizza was an acceptable meal by law? Mr. Martorella stated he was saying that.

Mr. Finkle asked that they not vote on anything tonight. He would like to see where it said that was the law. Mr. Martorella would get information to the Board regarding the law. This topic would be revisited at a later date.

3. Any other business that might rightfully come before this subcommittee.

There was no other business discussed this evening

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hammell made a motion to adjourn the subcommittee meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Inglese. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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**KRISTEN VINEYARD, CHAIRPERSON
FOOD SERVICE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**LAURA PADUA, CHAIRPERSON
PTO/PTA ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**