

**School Lunch Advisory Council (SLAC)  
Meeting Notes – May 14, 2021**

Attendees:

**NYS Office of General Services (OGS) Food Distribution:**

Maureen Barbic	Barbara Marshall
Debbie Hesch	Adam Wright

**USDA Northeast Regional Office Food and Nutrition Service:**

Adrienne Vingello

**SLAC Area Representatives**

Area A - Karen Bronson-Clark, Food Service Director, School #1 BOCES  
Area C - Tami Augugliaro, Food Service Director, Lancaster Central School  
Area D - Bryan McCoy, Food Service Director, DCMO BOCES  
Area E - Chris Whitmore, Food Service Director, Rome City School District  
Area F - Dave Gravlin, Food Service Director, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES  
Area G - Lyn Prestia, Food Service Director, Pine Bush Central School District  
Area J - Lisa Ostrowski, Food Service Director, North Colonie Central School District  
Area K - Alessandro Palumbo, Food Service Director, Farmingdale Public Schools  
Area L - Brian Wright, School Lunch Director, Baldwinsville Central School District  
NYC - Anne O'Donnell, Director of Supply Chain Management, Office of Food & Nutrition Services

**NYS Education Department (SED) – Child Nutrition Program Administration**

Raemie Swain  
Nicole Travis  
Kristin Junco

**New York School Nutrition Association (SNA):**

Ashleigh Roche  
Alyssa Molinari

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**OGS Food Distribution**

- June 2021 will be the end of Area E - Chris Whitmore and Area F - Dave Gravlin terms on SLAC.
- OGS reviewed the area reports and will address the most common questions.

**2020-21 School Year**

**Direct Delivery (Brown Box)**

- Distributors should be emailing weekly inventory reports to schools to show commodities at the distributor in school accounts. Schools need to pay attention to these emails and act on changes before product reaches the school. Schools cannot wait until the delivery arrives and refuse delivery. Run reports in WBSCM to see what is coming into the Distributor. Contact OGS immediately if you can't take the food.
- If you encounter any issues with your area Distributor, email OGS to report these issues. Make sure to include your school name, school code, and a detailed explanation of the issues you are having in the email.
- All Distributors must be empty by June 11, 2021. An email will be sent to notify schools.

**Processing**

**ProcessorLink**

- The USDA has cancelled all loads of bulk USDA Foods scheduled for March through June 2021 deliveries to processors. Excess pounds in state accounts will be used to fulfill orders.
- Please monitor your Requisition Status Report in WBSCM for Direct Diversion order status for SY 2020-21. Please verify account balances in Processor Link and K12. Please email or call OGS Food Distribution for assistance with direct diversion questions and for additions or reductions to direct diversion.

**USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DOD)**

- OGS Food Distribution is the primary contact for the DoD Program.

- Schools should contact [OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov) for all inquiries (this includes joining the program, adding locations, login issues, etc.)
- **Starting March 2021** OGS Food Distribution implemented the use of an online survey (through the site “Survey Monkey”) to request changes to allocations for DoD. Each survey response is reviewed by our DoD Fresh/Pilot specialist. Requests are approved if schools are registered in FFAVORS and have enough entitlement. The response time can be quicker if each school runs an entitlement/bonus summary report to see how much entitlement they have available before submitting the survey. Make sure all information is correct (amount/school year/school code). Keep comments short and to the point.
- OGS will send out an email after the request has been approved. We will reach out if we have any questions.
- If you complete the survey from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, your FFAVORS account will be updated **by the 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you submit the survey from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, your account will be updated **by the 30<sup>th</sup>**. If it has been over a week and you still haven’t heard from us, please check your FFAVORS account to see if it has been updated.
- If you follow all of these steps and you still have questions or concerns you can email [ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov)
- Include your School Code and Name along with DoD in the Subject Line. This eliminates additional emails and lessens response time.

### **USDA Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (Pilot)**

- There are 54 schools who have allocated entitlement to Pilot for SY 2021-2022 but have not submitted their Pilot Agreement to participate.
- **Starting March 2021** OGS Food Distribution implemented the use of an online survey (through the site “Survey Monkey”) to request changes to allocations for Pilot. Each survey response is reviewed by our DoD Fresh/Pilot specialist and the requests are approved if schools have enough entitlement, and a valid Pilot Agreement on file. The process can be streamlined if each school 1) Runs their entitlement/bonus summary report to see how much entitlement they have available and verify all information before submitting the survey (amount/school year/school code). Use the comment section effectively by keeping comments short and to the point. 4) please do not email us to tell us you completed the survey or to ask when it will be done. **These changes are not instantaneous.**
- OGS will send out an email after the request has been approved. We will reach out if we have any questions
- If you complete the survey from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, your Pilot Allotment will be updated **by the 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you submit the survey to from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, your survey will be updated **by the 30<sup>th</sup> \***.
- If you follow all of these steps and you still have questions or concerns you can email [ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov)

### **NYS Education Department**

**1. I keep checking the CN Website for waivers for next school year and I am not seeing anything. Can you tell me if there is anything I need to do at this point?**

*A. All waivers for SY 2021-22 are posted on the CN website. SFAs will review the waivers and during the renewal process will indicate whether they will elect each waiver for SY 2021-22 operations.*

**2. SY 2021-22 If someone missed the recent Mandatory Summer Food Service Program Sponsor Training for All Sponsors – what can they do to satisfy this requirement?**

*A. The webinars are posted on our website. You can watch them and let your SFSP representative know that you completed training.*

**3. SY 2021-22 – Do current 2020-21 waivers need to be reapplied for?**

*A. For operators who implemented SSO in SY 2020-21, waivers will roll into the 2021-22 annual renewal. For operators who implemented SFSP in SY 2020-21, you will review the waivers and elect all applicable waivers during the annual renewal process. Our goal is to have the 2021-22 SY renewal up by June 15.*

**4. SY 2021-22 – Does SSO require the collection of applications and the verification process?**

*A. SSO does not require the collection of applications or the verification process as all meals are served at no charge. DCMP is a requirement for ALL operators implementing SSO in the 2021-22 SY, as well as reporting SNAP/MEDI at the beginning of the SY in CNMS. Collection of applications for reasons other than CN cannot be charged to the school food service account.*

**5. SY 2020-21 – Some reimbursement is on hold or pending?**

*A.I spoke to the reimbursement office on May 13 and confirmed that both federal and State are currently on hold and, unfortunately, there is no date of when they will be released.*

**6. P-EBT Cleanup – 2020-21 almost complete – what is the next step?**

*A. OTDA has provided State Education with files of names they have collected from their Hotline, emails, and P-EBT Inquiry Form from SY 2019-20 P-EBT. We are contacting SFAs to determine if these children were enrolled and eligible. Once we have that complete, we will provide the data back to OTDA to issue these remaining benefits. This could take at least another 2 months. OTDA is not accepting any new names of children that may have been left off a roster.*

*As far as the continuation of benefits for this current school year, the NY P-EBT plan was just approved last month, and SED is finalizing a memo to go out to all school districts with information about the process. OTDA will be using data from the Dept of Health, the RICS and SED Reporting Systems to issue benefits for children that are eligible for benefits for the SY 2020-21.*

**7. I am trying to buy enough NY products to get the higher reimbursement for my district but am not coming close. Are there any local districts (or non-local) you know of who have been able to do this? NYSNA thinks Wilson Creek in Buffalo and Broome County might be close if not there.**

*A. Wilson CSD, Lancaster CSD, Depew CSD, and Buffalo CSD are a few in the Buffalo area that qualify. SFAs in the Buffalo area can reach out to Becky O'Connor at Cornell Cooperative Extension. She has been helping schools with this. SFAs that need help can email the 30% mailbox or reach out to Michele Beaver or Tara Webster and they will get them connected to the right person.*

**8. Does State Ed/USDA think the “Free Meals for All” will gain any traction and become a possibility for the future?**

*A. This is an initiative of the School Nutrition Association (and advocates) both nationwide and in NY. But we have no insight into whether USDA would allow something like this as a permanent allowance.*

We plan to have the NSLP renewal available by June 15. The SFSP renewal will be open next week. Administrative review requirements for 2021 SFSP and 2021-22 NSLP are paused.

Over the last month State Education conducted Technical Assistance calls. All SFAs received a Technical Assistance call or will receive one. In addition, State Ed will be conducting compliance reviews on a small percentage of schools. The compliance review is a targeted review, so it is more involved than a TA call, but not a full-blown review. We will begin conducting them in the next couple of weeks.

We have received several questions regarding the 30-day carryover. The carryover is currently paused, and State Education hopes that USDA will address it in upcoming guidance. However, I did want to mention that kids eating for free is not connected to carryover.

**Equipment Grant:**

This year's allocated funding for the FY20 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance grant totaled \$1,805,067.00. The grant application was due May 4, 2021. The submissions were received in our newly created SharePoint website in real time. The new online process of submission proved to be challenging for some users but with technical submission assistance from CN staff, we successfully received over 500 applications. The transition from paper to online submission was very well received as it saved time and paper.

Technical reviews of the applications are being completed now to verify eligibility and the completion of the prequalification requirements if applicable. Reviews of the applications will begin once that process is completed. The project dates for this year's application are 7/1/2021-6/30/2022.

**New York School Nutrition Association (SNA)**

**DIGITAL MAGAZINE**

- Summer issue will be out early June
- Fall deadline August 11<sup>th</sup>

## SPRING FLING

- May 19<sup>th</sup> via Zoom
- FREE for NYSNA members – register online
- “Community Food Access” workshop by Food Bank of Central NY / NYSED updates / Games

## VIRTUAL COOKING PARTY

- June 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom
- \$25 members – register online (limited space)
- Chef Julie Harrington, RD – sponsored by the NY Beef Council
- Two beef recipes – Beef Council sends gift card to purchase groceries for program

## 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- This year we have a hybrid event combining From the Show Floor with Regional Industry Seminar structure
- Conference registration will include:
  - From the Show Floor access
  - Incentive game
  - 9.5 CEUs
  - Access to a live show (Rochester, Saratoga, Long Island)
  - Networking events
- Hybrid model solves problem of high conference registration fees (due to onsite expenses), and overnight travel and accommodations
- Hybrid model will allow those that want to attend live shows to be able to do so, and those not able or willing to attend live shows to still participate in workshops and videos

## 30% INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Actively meeting with the Governor’s office and the Senate/Assembly chairs of Ag committees to get the 55 districts the 30% incentive money that they earned from the 2019-20 school year

## USDA

- 1. OGS Food Distribution requested to opt-in to a waiver for SY2020-21 so the State’s SY 2018-19 entitlement figures would be used. No reconciliation was done for the SY 2020-21 because of this.**
- 2. The State requested to opt-in to this waiver again for the SY 2021-22, so entitlement figures will stay the same for the SY 2021-22. However, a reconciliation will be done at the end of the SY 2021-22.**
- 3. SSO figures will be put into NSLP.**
- 4. USDA is currently working on restructuring the Board of Jewish Education program to ensure they are in compliance with USDA’s rules and procedures.**

## AREA A

- 1. One of my concerns with our OGS deliveries is that we are seeing many dented fruit cans. The problem is that we don’t notice them until we need to dish them up to use. Not sure if it is in the handling process at OGS or Palmer’s?**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

- 2. Anyone else getting these Tabatchnick peach cups that are watered down and have not much peaches in them?**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

- 3. One complaint or question: The diced chicken was an excellent product, better than the Fajita strips with gristle and fat. They came in 25 on the Statewide Survey, but not available?**

*A. Diced chicken was not made available, due to much excess product this year, as well as numerous redistribution requests for diced chicken.*

- 4. See the string of emails below. I'm forwarding because I really think Palmers is struggling with the organization of the OGS commodities. I received 40 cases of Strawberry Cups (12 of which don't belong to me), they were asked to be delivered next week on my assigned delivery day, but they all showed up today unbeknownst to us!**

*A. Please contact OGS Food Distribution with specifics.*

- 5. Complaint about the grilled chicken fillet; they are very spongy, not good as a whole item, but okay cut up. Any other schools complain about the sponginess of the grilled chicken fillets?**

*Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

- 6. One school had a huge issue with redistribution in March. He had sent emails to both OGS and Palmers, but Palmers still tried to deliver the product.**

*A. Even after receiving email confirmation from OGS and Palmer's in concern to redistribution, if a school still sees the product on a weekly report, the school should send an email to remind the Distributor the school requested redistribution.*

- 7. Turkey roasts in March!! A little late for November and December 2020 and way too early for next Nov/Dec. If we didn't receive them before November, why did they allow them to be delivered in March?**

*A. OGS understands that a double order was received in March because there was an August order that was delayed that also arrived in March. OGS was working with USDA, however August orders could not be cancelled.*

### **AREA C**

- 1. I keep checking the CN website for waivers for next year's school year and I am not seeing anything. Can you tell me if there is anything I need to do at this point?**

*A. All waivers for SY 2021-22 are posted on the CN website. SFAs will review the waivers and during the renewal process will indicate whether they will elect each waiver for SY 2021-2 operations.*

- 2. OGS gave us a lot of food this year. We appreciate that and it was well used. The new person who assisted with diversion was very receptive and helpful. We asked about some missing processors (Basic American and National) and he was very good about clarifying that.**

*A. Thank you!*

- 3. I really appreciate how flexible OGS has been this year with letting us redistribute products that we simply have no room to store and to give others the chance to accept more commodities through the surveys.**

*A. Thank you!*

- 4. None of my schools were happy with the Tabatchnick frozen peaches we received in our monthly brown box. The ones we got in the beginning of the year were much better.**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

### **AREA D**

- 1. Trucks for diversion being randomly cut from districts needs to be addresses.**

*A. An email went out to notify schools of cancellations and if pounds were needed, to email OGS.*

### **AREA E**

- 1. Peach cups delivered were not good.**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

**2. Staff has noticed that the quality of the broccoli has gone down. There are more stems, but one of my kitchens took the “servable” broccoli out of one case. The rest was left in the bag (pieces too small to serve) and the bag was about the size of an 8-inch kickball. I believe this is too much unusable product.**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

**3. We are very happy with the frozen fruit cups, turkey roasts have always been good, frozen corn, carrots, green beans and usually the broccoli. Wish we could receive more deli type meats such as turkey and ham.**

*A. Sliced Turkey ranked 39, Deli Turkey ranked 53, Turkey Deli Ham Smoked ranked 83, Sliced ham ranked 94.*

#### **AREA F**

**1. I went through my status req sheet and noticed I was short for my last order of canned peaches (12 cases). I reached out to OGS and they suggested I reach out to Glazier as it showed that they had been delivered, but not to me. I left a voice message last week, sent a follow-up email on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and then called again. It certainly wasn't urgent, but I was out and wanted to determine if our records matched while it was on my mind, it was also on the menu. I finally was able to talk to the rep and was told she would look into it when she had a chance. It has only been since Tuesday, and I do understand that bad days happen, and we are all busy...hopefully, it just that, but though I would share in case it is not just me.**

*A. OGS will follow up with Glazier again.*

#### **AREA G**

**1. Very satisfied with the process and support especially this year! Both USDA and further processed at the same time. SFA's appreciate the opportunity to adjust quantities and receive additional items.**

*A. Thank you!*

**2. OGS Surveys for DoD and Pilot: No confirmation of request generated when request is made? Should that indicate that the request was not submitted correctly?**

*A. Which school is this?*

**3. Is there any carryover \$/ lbs. due to difficulties in getting products?**

*A. Email your request for additional pounds to OGS.*

**4. How do you know what School Year the WBSCM Sales Order Changes apply to?**

*A. Review your requisition status report to see any changes.*

**5. SY2021-22 – Current extra entitlement funds SFA accounts: Will anything change?**

*A. No, the process will be the same.*

**6. SFA – new director appreciates the very helpful information/resources on the OGS Food Distribution website.**

*A. Thank you!*

**7. New OGS Vendor – When a new vendor states they are a NYS OGS Product Pilot vendor, how can the district verify that information?**

*A. You can verify by contacting OGS Food Distribution.*

#### **AREA J**

**1. I hope all is well. I am trying to buy enough NY products to get the higher reimbursement for my district but am not coming close. Are there any local districts (or non-local) you know of who have been able to do this? NYSNA thinks Wilson Creek in Buffalo and Broome County might be close if not there.**

*A. Wilson CSD, Lancaster CSD, Depew CSD, and Buffalo CSD are a few in the Buffalo area that qualify. SFAs in the Buffalo area can reach out to Becky O'Connor at Cornell Cooperative Extension. She has been helping schools with this.*

SFAs that need help can email the 30% mailbox or reach out to Michele Beaver or Tara Webster and they will get them connected to the right person.

**2. I would bet that OGS very seldom gets any praise. I would like to send a shout out to the staff of OGS. Especially in these very difficult times they have been there to answer any questions and assist in any way they could. No doubt trying time for all of us. Thank you and Kudos to OGS!**

*A. Thank you!!*

#### **AREA K/W**

**1. No peanut butter or raisins available, yet they were high on the preference survey?**

*A. Raisins are due into Brentwood Distribution Center (BDC) on 9/15/21 & 2/15/22. Peanut butter ranked 87 and was not ordered for SY 2021-2022.*

**2. Need of more individual portion-controlled fruits/veggies. Was disappointed not to get raisins/boxed and low entitlement for cupped frozen fruits and no applesauce cups this year.**

*A. Minimum requests to order raisins was not met for SY 2020-2021. COVID caused a lot of fruit cancellations.*

**3. Direct Diversion pounds were swept due to decreased usage. Vendor procurement issues were not taken into account. It took me 4 months to receive string cheese from Sysco and that is just one example. There were many issues with other vendors also. Brown box items are ordered as per par levels and shorted upon delivery after items have been put on the menu. I have sent emails to Regina concerning these, but we were not made aware that she was not representing us this year!**

*A. Normal procedure is to sweep pounds due to decreased usage. Vendors have minimum delivery per items. Brown box items are not guaranteed unless a "\*" on the IRF and should not be menued until received at your school.*

**4. I emailed a direct diversion change form on 11/23/20 and received a response that it was accepted and processed. Then I sent another change request form on 1/19/21 but did not receive a response. I was not sure if they were still accepting the change requests since I did not get any response at all.**

*A. OGS called this school and it has been resolved. However, if a school does not receive a response, please follow up with a second email or a phone call.*

**5. We submitted a request to give back pounds and never received any confirmation or feedback. We are not in a situation to receive what would bring us to 40% or to bring us to 100% later in the year. Were requests still being accepted?**

*A. OGS called this school to speak about this issue and it has been resolved.*

**6. Can an email be sent out informing the Area K/W what is going on with Direct Diversion orders for the remainder of the school year. We are fielding a lot of questions about what to do and how to give back and look for more pounds. Please send instructions for the remainder of 2020-21 school year.**

*A. OGS has called this school to speak about this issue and it has been resolved. Schools can email inquiries to OGS.*

**7. Hi – will there be an offering in June since May was only a couple of items?**

*A. Yes, there is an offering in June for 8 items. OGS's goal was to empty BDC by the June offer. Schools have until today, Friday May 14, 2021, to place orders for June.*

**8. Lack of USA canned fruit and frozen veggies in monthly offerings – can we expect this to continue into next year?**

*A. Guide rates were lowered allowing schools to order more therefore emptying BDC.*

**9. Vendors are reporting massive shorts each month. This includes Tyson, Pilgrim's Pride, and Rich Products so far. A few of the reasons these processors have given us for the shorts are increase in school openings and lack of staff to work in the factories. We are stuck with limited ability to purchase items that we pre-ordered last year and now are at risk of losing dollars we put towards these foods. Is OGS thinking about a rollover of these dollars for next year?**

*A. As in any year, entitlement does not roll over.*

**10. We need an additional vendor for DoD fresh. The vendor is often late and is nasty when any inquiring is made.**

*A. There is only one vendor for DoD fresh for the 5-year contract, which ends on August 31, 2021. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) solicits vendors. All complaints should be emailed to the vendor with a :cc to OGS. Include all school information, date and time of incident, name of people involved, and detailed information and pictures. OGS will notify the USDA/DoD.*

**11. Will we be seeing a more reliable offering of American (yellow cheese) slices going forward?**

*A. Due to COVID, orders were cancelled by the USDA. A sufficient amount has been ordered for SY 2021-22 keeping in mind OGS will deplete inventory by June 2022.*

**12. CACFP can be complicated especially for new directors. I'm not sure of what, but there should be additional resources and help for schools.**

*A. What type of help is needed? Please contact OGS Food Distribution for assistance.*

**13. Very happy with the FFAVORS program! With the adoption of USDA free lunch extension for 2021-22 will entitlement dollars be adjusted for districts that normally have low eligibility?**

*A. Great to hear. USDA Foods entitlement for the 2021-22 School Year will be based on the most recent pre-pandemic school year, 2018-19. Please contact OGS Food Distribution with any specific questions on your schools situation.*

**14. The quality of the fruit and vegetables varies, it could be very disappointing. We are ordering less and less for this reason. At the end we can lose on our allocation, but we can't serve this to our children. When the program started the quality was great. I discussed it with other schools, and they agree with me. Why can't we have a choice of two companies? Will you be taking care of Kosher food? How will it work? Could we carry over out allocation to the following year if we don't use it completely? We would appreciate if all commodities have the manufacturer or producer on the box, so we can check if it is Kosher as sometimes, we order commodities and then find out it is not the Kosher lot. Maybe it should be marked on the box if it is Kosher or not? When the pickup days interfere with the Jewish holidays could you take it into consideration (extend/change is accordingly)? I appreciate this system of getting the schools involved.**

*A. The DoD vendor is contracted for 5 years. BDC has a few commercial Kosher items available. Entitlement needs to be used during the SY and do not roll over. BDC has extended/changed delivery during the Jewish holidays and it is up to the school to reach out to OGS and BDC for approval. All complaints should be emailed to OGS. Include all school information, date and time of incident, name of people involved and detailed information and pictures. OGS will notify the USDA/DoD.*

**15. I am excited to participate in the FFAVORS program and continue to participate in the FFVP.**

*A. Glad to hear!*

**16. Do they think the "Free Meals for All" will gain any traction and become a possibility for the future?**

*A. This is an initiative of the School Nutrition Association (and advocates) both nationwide and in NY, but we have no insight into whether USDA would allow something like this as a permanent allowance.*

**17. What are the predictions for USDA foods for next year given the current situation with pricing, staff shortages, trucking issues? How much will be purchased or cancelled because of price and availability?**

*A. OGS has no insight on next school year.*

**18. During the pandemic I have found it very difficult to get in touch with the staff at OGS. We have had to communicate through email and often play email tag. Before it was possible to talk to a human and at least be directed to the correct contact for help with the situation or concern. When will the offices re-open?**

*A. Our main phone number is (518)474-5122. Our email address is [ogs.sm.donatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:ogs.sm.donatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov). The main line and email are monitored from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm and the office did not close during the pandemic.*



**19. As it relates to items offered for the lunch program, we need more variety of produce; like brown rice, whole wheat flour, oil, whole wheat mac & cheese, whole wheat spaghetti, milk, butter, onion, spinach, squash, tofu, peanut butter etc. When can we look forward to better supplies of food items for the program?**

*A. Schools can use USDA Foods entitlement to order fresh produce through the DOD program. Direct delivered foods are ordered based on the results of the annual food preference survey.*

#### **AREA L**

**1. Most districts have come to terms with how to deal with their excess commodity products. Districts are looking forward to a return to more normal operations and usage for the 2021-22 SY. Most districts are still sitting on a large volume of canned products.**

*A. OGS is also excited to return to more normal operations as well!*

**2. Communication from OGS has been very good throughout a difficult year. OGS has worked hard to balance the commodity redistribution when Districts and warehouses are overloaded. Thanks!**

*a. Thank you!!*

**3. Big Apple has been very good for Area L over their contracted period. There is concern that, next year, Renzi may struggle with the process as their commercial operation has several challenges week to week.**

*A. Please email any concerns or issues to OGS and we will make sure to address them for correction within the contract.*

**4. FFAVORS has seen an increase in participating Districts and will likely have more volume next year. There has been positive feedback from South Seneca, Liverpool, and Skaneateles on the quality and ease of the FFAVORS program. Latina Boulevard has corrected the errors of delivering non-domestic or damaged product in a timely manner.**

*A. Great news to hear!*

#### **NYC Board of Education**

NYC is planning its biggest Summer School Program to date. 700+ schools open and we will continue to feed the local community.

Back to school plans have NOT been finalized, but we are “planning” for regular service.

A significant increase of allocation to DoD for next school year.

We’re still having issues with labor from manufacturers, to distributors, to schools.

#### **Next SLAC meeting date:**

October 15, 2021

(Further meeting dates TBD)