

# SCHOOL LUNCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – October 19, 2018

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

Maureen Barbic  
Barbara Marshall  
Gabrielle Viens  
Ryan Collins

## USDA:

Adrienne Vingjello, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)  
Matthew Chotkowski, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)

## SLAC Area Representatives:

Area A - Karen Bronson-Clark for Gregory Elliott, Food Service Supervisor, GST BOCES, Prattsburgh Central School  
Area C - Tami Augugliaro, Food Service Director, Lancaster Central School  
Area D - Bryan McCoy for Kim Corcoran, Food Service Director, DCMO BOCES  
Area E - Chris Whitmore, Food Service Director, Rome City School District  
Area F - Dave Gravlin, Food Service Director, Potsdam Central School  
Area G - Michael Robinson, Food Service Director, New Paltz Central School District  
Area J - Lisa Ostrowski, Food Service Director, North Colonie Central School District  
Area K - Regina Dunne, Food Service Director, Smithtown Central School District  
Area L - Brian Wright, School Lunch Director, Baldwinsville Central School District  
NYC - Anne O'Donnell, Director of Supply Chain Management – New York City Department of Education  
NYC - Cristina Perez – New York City Department of Education, Office of Food and Nutrition Services

## NYS Department of Education

Sandy Sheedy, Child Nutrition Program

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## **NYS Education Department:**

- A Civil Rights webinar will be available on SED's website. NYS DOE is going through a Civil Rights Management Evaluation.
- Breakfast After the Bell: \$5,000 non-competitive grant for the building. You have until February 28, 2019 to submit for the grants. Open to all. Please remind your areas to look at that.
- USDA Farm to School Grants. These grants can help you to get to your 30% of New York State purchases. Only lunch expenses count toward the 30%. USDA entitlement cannot be used towards the 30%.
  - *Comment: Local isn't always the least expensive. Local ground beef is way more expensive*
- Anti-Shaming. The deadline for comments is December 3, 2018.
  - *Negative balances have tripled in some cases.*
- Donation of leftover food is voluntary. Schools are not expected to have food left. Shared tables are locally-driven.

## **New York School Nutrition Association (NYSNA)**

### **Upcoming Events:**

October 26, 2018 NYSNA 2017-18 Executive Board Meeting, Saratoga Springs  
October 26 - 28, 2018 NYSNA Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs  
October 28, 2018 NYSNA 2018-19 Executive Board Meeting, Saratoga Springs  
November 9, 2018 FOCUS Deadline (Winter issue)  
December 3, 2018 NYSNA Regional Industry Seminar – New Hyde Park  
December 4, 2018 NYSNA Regional Industry Seminar – Stony Point  
December 18, 2018 NYSNA Regional Industry Seminar – Rochester  
December 19, 2018 NYSNA Regional Industry Seminar – Syracuse

### **2018 Annual Conference**

- About 300 registered attendees
- 144 Booths in exhibit hall
- F2S booths displaying qualified products that meet 30% purchasing threshold and F2S information booths giving information to buyers about incentive program and purchasing local products

- 4-hour Procurement Pre-Con on Thursday
- 2 F2S Workshops on Saturday about sourcing local products and using them on menus
- Other workshop topics include: CEP and Provision 2, marketing, customer service, food safety, relationship building, year-round school meal opportunities, bringing down food costs, and a poverty simulation
- NYS Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball attending Saturday to speak to attendees and to visit the exhibit hall
- Magician Steven Brundage (from 2016 America's Got Talent) performing at Saturday banquet

### **2018 Regional Industry Seminars**

- Registration forms to be released October 22
- Looking at 90 minutes of programming from state agencies
- Starting earlier in the morning so exhibits end earlier
- New venues for Long Island and Hudson Valley (Fishkill)

### **2019 Legislative Action Conference**

- January 28-29 in Albany at the Hilton downtown
- 2019 Legislative Agenda: To eliminate reduced-price meal category
  - Several other states have already done this and are successful
  - Obtaining information from these states
  - NYSNA's initial meeting with Governor's office later this month

### **Adrienne Vingiello USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)**

- Due to a variety of reasons and limited resources, the USDA will not be doing a taste test at SNA. Maureen will have to work with you to see who the processors are so that you can check out specific products at SNA. Although the vendors will not be the same, the product specification will be the same. We will test the egg patty today.
- The USDA's website has a section for cookbooks. If you would like to publish your cookbook, you can submit it. [https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/USDAFoods\\_Cookbook\\_Resources.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/USDAFoods_Cookbook_Resources.pdf).
- Link to the Farm to Schools information <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/resources-farm-school-grant-program-applicants>
- Trade Mitigation will be coming for schools. Trade Mitigation is the USDA's response to the embargo of trade for certain products in the United States. The bulk of the program is going through TEFAP. The following link contains the 8/27/2018 press release that discusses the products that are being affected: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/208ff5c>
- The date of origin report: the USDA procured almost \$18 million from NYS. The item that the USDA procures the most from NYS is Apples.
  - *Discussion: We would like to taste it, feel it, see it, touch it. Our directors want to see it. We are used to it not being there. If they could send us a list, and where we can find it, what vendors. Looking for the brown box samples. We could organize a taste test. Request a case from a neighboring state.*

### **Matt Chotkowski, USDA Food and Nutrition**

- Initiative working with the EPA ways of managing organic waste and recycling. Different ways of managing inorganic/organic waste.

### **OGS Update:**

### **Maureen Barbic:**

- **FOOD PREFERENCE SURVEY:** The USDA releases the Foods Available List in December and we will create the Food Preference Survey soon after. We talked at the May 2018 meeting, that we will be involving SLAC with decisions for defining the Top 30 items from the Food Preference Survey results for ordering in the 2019-20 School Year. We tried something different in 2018-19 and it didn't work. For 2019-20 ordering, Direct Delivery and Diversion ordering will be open simultaneously.
- **PILOT:** Food safety requirements were updated by the USDA for fresh-cut fruits and vegetables. Taylor Farms, a supplier for many Pilot vendors, made a business decision not to make the change. They

estimate the new requirement would raise the cost of produce by \$2 a case. Taylor Farms is still a Pilot vendor, however cut and chopped items are not included.

- *Question: How to use remaining Entitlement? Survey monkeys have gone out in areas where food is available at distributors.*
- There has been no information provided on the Pilot program. The program will continue until it is written out of the Farm Bill. For schools whose Pilot was reduced in July but now have additional entitlement available can request additional funds to be set aside for Pilot by emailing the OGS Donated Foods shared mailbox. [ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:ogsdonatedfoods@ogs.ny.gov)
- Diane Green accepted a position with another state agency. Gabrielle Viens has assumed responsibilities of the Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables.

#### **Area A**

- Requested to address the top 30 survey.
- Please have better food descriptions on the survey.
  - *Space is limited. The USDA Product Information Sheets have more description and recipe ideas. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/nslp-usda-foods-product-information-sheets>*
- Not telling us that we weren't going to get deli cheese before we ordered.
  - *Direct delivery and Direct Diversion ordering will be open at the same time for SY 2019-20.*
- Food Directors want to see, taste and feel the products before committing to them.
- All string cheese was delivered in one month.
  - *Could it be the way it was ordered? Please run WBSCM reports.*

#### **Area C**

- Can there be more delivery times for orange juice? Schools have trouble holding all of the orange juice at the same time.
  - *1,408 cases of orange juice make up a full truckload. We need to order a minimum of ¼ truckload to each delivery location. If we make more delivery times available, there won't be enough orders to fill trucks. The alternative is to cancel all orders.*
- Schools are asking if they will be getting any frozen fruit this year.
  - *Please run Requisition Status Report.*
  - *Good practice to menu after it arrives at the distributor.*
- *Question about deliveries: The distributor contract allows for two deliveries of USDA Foods to schools, per month. Please contact OGS with specific delivery issues.*

#### **Area D**

- Delivery problems with Broome in their first year as a distributor. Broome has eliminated their produce run so drivers can deliver commodities.
- Complaint: No fruit in September
  - *Seasonal fruit requests for October 2017-September 2018 would have to be entered in March 2017. Schools previously said this was too early to place orders. Some schools opted to order the Seasonal Fruits later in the year to keep over the summer to have on hand to start the new school year.*

#### **Area E**

- Complaint about plastic in the vegetarian can beans.
  - *Please submit a Commodity Complaint to OGS.*

#### **Area F**

- When does Sysco Contract for Area F?
  - *Sysco contracts for Areas F & G end June 30, 2019. Contracts are currently being updated and will be sent out for bid soon.*
- Would like to see the Food Preference Survey Results published while diversion is going on so if schools don't like the brown box offerings, they have an opportunity to divert more.
- USDA is saying ½ truckloads can be ordered.
  - *For diversion/processing there are certain items that can be ordered in ½ truckload quantities. Direct delivery (Brown Box), orders must be placed in full truckload quantities with no less than ¼ truckload per stop. We also split trucks with other states. Dave will provide clarification on the statement.*
- A district asked about getting samples to products that are new ie: mixed fruit cup.

- *Requesting samples of USDA Foods is difficult because the vendor who wins each bid could be different. Even though the USDA specifications are the same, vendors vary. It would be very costly to vendors to provide samples to every school in the nation.*
- One school complaint about applesauce cups. It was unusually dark and had a funny aftertaste.
  - *Please submit a commodity complaint.*
- Sysco – Delivered at 4pm yesterday.
  - *The contract calls for deliveries to be made between 7 am and 2 pm. Please contact OGS if this becomes a pattern.*

#### **Area G**

- Districts are requesting a template and/or guidance be provided on how to properly bid FFS. Business officials do not understand FFS.
  - *There is a definite need for guidance. This is to be determined.*
- Districts are requesting direct links or assistance locating State Food Service Bids for food and equipment.
  - <https://ogs.ny.gov/procurement>
- Can there be an easier way to find fact sheets for available items?
  - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/nslp-usda-foods-product-information-sheets> *There is no search but if you click on Fruit and then hit "Control +F" you can search by material number.*
- Deliveries started off a little rough this school year. Jessica went on vacation and Courtney was the replacement. Nobody picked up the phone call when we tried to call. Jessica is now back from vacation.
- The brown box list of items is way too small and seems to be getting smaller. This list needs to be available earlier, so that if it is considered very limited they can order more processed foods before the cut off.
  - *We will work with SLAC to finalize the list of foods to order. Direct Delivery and Direct Diversion will be open simultaneously.*

#### **Area J**

- Buy American Provision – need more guidance. Schools are used to having everything in writing. How to bid FFS?
- Would like to have input on offerings. Schools need some offerings that will hit the center of the plate. Schools have limited storage for frozen vegetables.
  - *OGS will involve SLAC with selections for the 2019-20 School Year.*
- Please provide more training for food service directors.
- Sysco has a problem when schools have holidays on Mondays.

#### **Area K**

- Not enough fruit and vegetables available in the program.
- My area is wondering if there is going to be a list where you can buy New York State food products to meet the 30%.
  - *Ag & Markets will be creating a list.*
- Having a problem with a vendor delivering what they ordered
  - *That agreement is between the school and the processor. Go back to the vendor and let them know what you're not getting what you ordered.*

#### **Area L**

- How can schools use remaining entitlement?
  - *Pilot? Contact Scott Mosier re: Diversion. Also, survey monkeys have gone out in areas where food is available at distributors. Schools are encouraged to order 105% of their entitlement when ordering is open to allow for cancelations, delays, and other unanticipated events.*
- Big Apple is working out well.

#### **New York City Department of Education**

- DOD quality issues. Getting produce at the end of the season.
  - *Report to vendor and DoD representative. If not resolved, then contact complaint line.*
- New logo and branding. Changing from "School Foods" to "The Office of Food and Nutrition Services"
- Thank you for your support.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- The Commodity Complaint form is confusing. Could there be a cheat sheet on how to find the Sales Order (SO) #, etc.?

- Assessment fees: State Ed has transferred remaining SAE funds to OGS to cover the per case assessment fee. Schools should budget for this.

**Next SLAC Meeting**

- Friday, January 11, 2019 (Snow date: Friday, February 2, 2019)
- Friday, May 17, 2019