**School Lunch Advisory Council (SLAC)**

**Meeting Notes – October 15, 2021**

Attendees:

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

Maureen Barbic

Debbie Hesch

Barbara Marshall

Gabrielle Viens

Anja Allnach Frank Palmo

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

Unable to attend

**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 - Kelly Filus, Food Service Director, Carthage City School District

Area F - Brian Mitchell, Food Service Director, Ogdensburg City School District

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

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

Jennifer Martin

**OGS Food Distribution**

* Welcomed two new members: Kelly Filus, Area E and Brian Mitchell, Area F.
* This is Barbara Marshall’s last SLAC meeting because she is retiring in December. Adam Wright is taking over for Barbara.
* WBSCM is transitioning to Google Chrome in early spring 2022.

**2021-22 School Year**

**Direct Delivery (Brown Box)**

* Distributors should be emailing weekly/biweekly inventory reports to schools to show commodities at each 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 your Requisition Status Report in WBSCM to see what is coming into the distributor. Contact OGS immediately if you can’t take your USDA commodities and OGS will work with you.
* 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.
* Oven Roasted Chicken, (8 pc), Strawberry cups, Shredded Cheddar Cheese, Broccoli, and Applesauce cups were cancelled due to vendor constraints and a poor harvest.
* Applesauce cups, Canned Applesauce, Orange Juice cups, Canned Mixed Fruit, Canned Peaches, Tuna, and Canned Pears have been delayed due to vendor constraints.
* Commodity Complaints (USDA Foods), schools should fill out the complaint form located on OGS’s website.(Link: <https://ogs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2018/08/usdacommoditycomplaintform.pdf>) The form must be completed in its entirety, and should include pictures, a detailed description of the issue, and sales order #. OGS will submit the complaint to USDA.

**Processing**

* Please monitor your Requisition Status Report in WBSCM for your Direct Diversion pounds order status (approved, cancelled, purchased, etc.). 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.
* OGS will be co-hosting two training sessions with K12 Foodservice and ProcessorLink on November 9, 2021 and November 16, 2021. The K12 Foodservice trainings will be held at 10:00 am. The ProcessorLink trainings will be held at 1:00 pm.

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

* OGS Food Distribution is the primary contact for the DoD Program for all inquiries (this includes joining the program, adding locations, login issues, etc.). Emails should contain school code and school name along with DoD in the subject line.
* To request additional USDA entitlement be allocated in FFAVORS, schools need to verify available entitlement and complete the DoD FFAVORS Survey:   [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRMVD8H](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=16e454fd-497f6dec-16e6adc8-000babd9fe9f-12361da79f41fdfc&q=1&e=733b2872-abaa-4dd4-bfcf-9cafffdd4deb&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FKRMVD8H)
* Schools should run their Entitlement Bonus Summary Report in WBSCM to verify available entitlement before submitting a survey request.
* OGS will email schools when the request has been processed.
* DoD is going strong with $50 million allocated for the current school year.
* Issues: Schools need to email the vendor and cc: OGS. In most cases the vendors have been resolving the issues. More in-depth complaints have been forwarded to the USDA/DOD. Responses will be sent to schools.
* DoD prices include the price of the produce, delivery and administrative costs. This is a Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) contract. OGS cannot make changes or change the vendor. These are five year contracts. The current vendors have the option to sub-contract to assist with deliveries and it is between the vendor and the sub-contractor to work out issues.
* Bananas cannot be provided through DoD as the quantity of domestically produced bananas cannot satisfy the nationwide demand.

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

* The Pilot program is capped at $3.5 million for New York State. For the current school year, of 2021-2022, 196 schools requested $3.86 million towards the Pilot program, since this is over budget some adjustments had to be made.
* There will be no waiting list for the Pilot program this year as all funds are allocated.
* Vendors must submit invoices to the USDA within 30 days. Schools should promptly respond to vendors requesting receipt approvals.

**NYS Education Department – Child Nutrition Program Administration**

1. Clarification: A question was asked about a newly enrolled family who was told not to fill out an application as all meals were free - can they still receive P-EBT benefits. Unfortunately, it is too late to add those kids on as eligible for P-EBT.
2. For this year, year 3, ARs will be completely done offsite. SED is currently working on modifying the AR process and will notify schools up for review as soon as possible. We will also provide an AR webinar.
3. Meal Pattern Waiver: We fully understand that you all are dealing with all kinds of supply chain issues and that you don’t know what you may be missing on a daily basis. We just ask that you elect the meal pattern waiver in CNMS and put as much detail in the comment box as possible. USDA is requiring that we collect duration of waiver use. There will eventually be a spot for you to put begin and end dates. The end date can be changed. Meaning at the end of one week you go in and elect the waiver for the red/orange veg subgroup and you put an end date in. Then at the end of the following week you couldn’t get legumes. You would just add legumes in the comment section and extend the end date.
4. Income Applications: Schools not approved for CEP or Provision 2 must make applications available for newly enrolled and newly eligible students as children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals may qualify for P-EBT.
5. Income Verification: If you collected applications, you must do verification. The sample is based on Oct 1. All SFAs must complete the income verification form on CNMS by Nov 15.
6. Direct Certification: State matches are now available. All SFAs are required to complete the Direct Certification Matching Process.
7. P-EBT: (For SY 20-21, to qualify for benefits students must be F/R and could not attend school due to a closure or reduced school day for 5 consecutive days. There are 2 benefit levels, hybrid and remote and benefits are calculated by month). OTDA is still processing data and the issuance of PEBT benefits will continue for several months due to the large number of eligible children and schools participating in the National School Lunch Program across the state. If a child is eligible and has not received P-EBT benefits by late December 2021, then the parent can call the hotline number or fill out the PEBT Information Form. (<https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>).

Summer 2021, benefits won’t be issued until all SY 20-21 benefits have been issued. So maybe next Spring. Students that are F/R eligible and were enrolled in school in June 2021 are eligible for benefits.

1. The state plan for SY 2021-22 has not been approved yet. We think it will be the same process as we just used for 202-21. Memo with clarifying information being worked on.
2. P-EBT Administrative Cost Reimbursement: Over $4 million in federal funds will go to NY SFAs for costs incurred to support P-EBT from 10/1/20 until 9/30/21. The funds will be released automatically.
3. Emergency Cost Operation Reimbursement: The funds are supposed to be released today. We will be paying $71.648,459 to 685 SFAs. Federal reimbursement for SFAs that lost reimbursement during 2019-20 school closures.
4. Equipment Grant: We received 543 applications for equipment requests which totaled approximately $5 million. We were able to fund a total of 159 equipment grant awards to 127 Recipient Agencies (RA) in 59 SFAs, totaling $1,805,067. Tentative awards are posted on our website.  <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/fy-2020-food-service-equipment-grant-awards>

If your SFA had been awarded, an FS-10 will be needed to begin the process. Please visit our website and send that form in within the next 10 business days.

If your SFA was not awarded and you would like a debriefing letter outlining your strengths and weaknesses, please email foodequip@nysed.gov to formally request one.

We need to receive the requests for debriefing by Oct 23rd. It's 15 calendar days from when the awards post. I would like to get the FS-10's by that same date as well but if they have questions or concerns, they can email that box.

1. Local Wellness Policy Waiver: On April 2, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver delaying the deadline for the first triennial assessment to June 30, 2021.

SFA’s required to complete a triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, may select the LWP waiver deadline of completing the first assessment by June 30, 2022.  This mean the second triennial assessment by June 30, 2025.

1. The waiver addresses an opportunity for the First Triennial Assessment to June 30, 2022 only.

All other requirements and provisions of LWP continue to be in place – soliciting and gathering a diverse team, appointing leadership, evaluating the school environment, and creating policy at the school level, communicating and publicly announcing the policies at the school/district level.

If your SFA is prepared to complete their triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, we encourage those that are prepared to do so to complete their assessments on time.

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

2021 CONFERENCE

* Digital platform launched September 15th and will remain open until June 2022
* In-person shows are:
	+ Rochester Oct 27
	+ Saratoga Oct 28
	+ Long Island Nov 3
	+ MUST be pre-registered to attend any in-person show

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

* UNIVERSAL MEALS:
	+ NYSNA has a new strategic plan for 2021-2022 that will be debuted in the Winter edition of Fresh Bites. One of the objectives is to achieve Healthy Meals at No Charge (or universal meals) for all New York students past June 2022. NYSNA has partnered with Hunger Solutions NY, ASBO, and Share Our Strength to pursue this.
* FARM TO SCHOOL:
	+ 30% Program: hearing a lot of frustration from districts who participated previously saying rules/requirements are changing and it’s becoming increasingly difficult to continue in the program
	+ NYGFFNYK coalition is having conversations about advocating to include breakfast in the incentive program
	+ Coalition also pushing for an increase in grant money from Ag & Markets from 1.5 million to 3 million
* COMMITTEE INTEREST FORMS
	+ Looking for volunteers to participate on Public Policy & Legislative Committee and newly formed Advocacy Task Force – more voices needed from all regions in the state

FRESH BITES

* 30% NY Incentive Program issue: <https://publications.nyschoolnutrition.org/view/151986692/>
* Deadline for the Winter 2022 issue is November 10th

**AREA A**

**1. We received no delivery on Monday 10/4, which includes DoD. We called the office and were told that we would not receive it on Monday because the driver did not show up for work. We were also told that our produce will come in on Tuesday 10/5. We have yet to receive any produce today and when we call the number to find out if we are getting a delivery, the phone is busy or just keeps ringing and we cannot even leave a voicemail.**

*A. Schools should email the DOD vendor and cc OGS Food Distribution to monitor the resolution between the school and vendor. Vendors continue to have driver and staffing shortages and are working hard to recruit employees.*

**2. We experienced an issue this week that greatly concerns me. Our schools is participating in the OGS FFAVORS Program this school year. While working with Boulevard over the summer setting up our delivery schedule, Boulevard told us our weekly delivery day would be on Tuesdays. We were scheduled to take our first delivery on Tuesday 9/7. With orders already placed, Boulevard contacted us late the previous week to let us know that they changed our first delivery to Tuesday 9/14. We have to make arrangements with an alternate produce provider. Late the following week, Boulevard again contacted us to let us know they have now moved our FFFAVORS delivery to Fridays. We were not provided a choice. We didn’t receive our first delivery until Friday 9/17. They indicated it was a result of driver shortages and their routing schedule. Most orders were late, shorted &/or had poor quality product, but that is not the reason for my email. Once we were told by Boulevard that our delivery day would be Friday, I notified them that we would be closed for Superintendent’s Day on Friday (10/8) and Parent Teacher Conference Day on Friday (10/29). Boulevard shared with me that their delivery schedule was set and that they are not required to work with the district to schedule an alternative delivery day unless the district was closed for a federal holiday. From a customer service standpoint this is awful. If true, this is unacceptable. Our district was ASSIGNED Fridays as a delivery day. We did not select it. If our delivery day remained Tuesday, this would not impact us. They said they would do a single drop. We have 16 schools. A single drop is not realistic. All our schools exceed the minimum for delivery. Is this really OGS’s position as well? Please advise.**

*A. The contracts are administered by the Department of Defense. OGS forwarded this issue to the USDA.*

**3. Friday is supposed to be my delivery day. I have to place my order on Monday. So far, no orders have shown up until Monday. This week the produce was good, but the week before I had to have them bring back a lot of rotten or squashed product. Because we can’t count on them, we are forced to order from American mostly, because we need to feed the kids. Boulevard was a very bad idea. I truly hope we switch back.**

*A. This school was combining the produce bid and DoD. In the past, American won the produce bid, but this year Latina won.*

**4. Latina/Boulevard is having major issues with getting us DoD produce. I have emailed OGS directly but wanted to add our school to your (Karen’s) list of folks having issues. We did not receive our DoD Deliveries on Monday this week and didn’t receive a call. We received our deliveries at 3 of the 4 schools today (what is the date??). Again, no call at the 4th school. We might get that delivery tomorrow. My question…What are we supposed to do about produce and fresh fruits and veggies for the kids when the truck doesn’t show up?**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS Food Distribution.*

**AREA C**

**1. Del Monte peaches, we are finding pit pieces and also the inner pit “seed”. I’m going to try and send a complaint to the USDA.***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. If I sent all my cheese, flour, and tomato products to Wild Mike’s Pizza (S.A. Piazza), why am I still having a hard time getting products from Latina?**

*A. Please contact your broker. Is Latina the vendor who won the bid?*

**3. No one is sticking to bid prices or saying they can’t get the items they bid on and we have to get alternate items at double the price to get anything in. Also the distribution winners of the NOI bids don’t have the items, but the other distributors do, so we would have to purchase at a higher price.**

*A. Emergency contract available, non-competitive contract waiver, so you can use a processor without competing. NO formal bid: just pick who you want and go with them, just document and use emergency contract available. This is a non-competitive procurement process and there is more information on State Education’s website.*

**AREA D**

**1. FFAVORS deliveries have been being delivered very late in the day or not at all. Scheduled for a Tuesday delivery and sometime not showing up until Thursday if at all. This is too late to even use some of the items during the week.**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS.*

**2. Big Apple is not showing up on our scheduled days, only bringing part of the order, and there is a lack of communication. Also, the weekly sheets are hard to read as all districts are listed on the same sheet.**

*A. Please call or email OGS for assistance.*

 **3. I know there is not much you can do, just wanted to express concern over the cancelled orders and date changes.**

**AREA E**

**1. Gargiulo is requiring an 8-day lead time for produce. Orders must be placed by COB Tuesday to be delivered the following Wednesday or Thursday. The agreement between USDA and Gargiulo states: “Schools shall place orders to accommodate a 4-day lead time. For example, if a customer has a Friday delivery day, an order must be placed by close of business (COB) on Monday.”.**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS.*

**2. Gargiulo sub-contracts with Glazier for delivery of DoD fresh produce. The product is shipped from Gargiulo to Glazier on Sunday and sits at Glazier for several days prior to being delivered to schools on Wednesday or Thursday. Because of this, items often only have a 3 to 4 day shelf life. Even when products arrive with a sufficient shelf-life, they are often already spoiled, especially cut vegetable such as salad mix, chopped romaine, and carrot sticks. This suggests improper storage/handling in the warehouse or during transport. The agreement between USDA and Gargiulo states: “For Fresh-cut Fresh Fruits and Vegetables/Ready to Eat Salads/Cole Slaw/etc. Individual bags/containers must be marked with a 14-day shelf life from the date of production. All products must be received by the customer with at least 50% of recommended shelf-life remaining”.**

*A. These issues have been reported to USDA.*

**3. DoD Deliveries are arriving to some schools after 3pm, some as late as 6:30pm.**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD Vendor and OGS. Vendors continue to struggle with staff shortages and the USDA is aware as this is a nationwide issue.*

**4. Glazier has stated that they will no longer be delivering produce to Jefferson county next month. Who will be taking this over?**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD Vendor and OGS. OGS will be reaching out to Glazier. Please note this is an issue to be resolved by Gargiulo Produce.*

**5. The egg patties are fantastic – great job OGS!!**

**6. With the recent shortages of canned fruit (mixed fruit, peaches, and pears) applesauce, and strawberries are we still required to offer an extra ½ cup of fruit at breakfast? At least till more fruit is available. We are trying to extend all of our fruit offerings for breakfast and lunch and still not having enough on hand. Would this fall under the current waiver; Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2021-2022?**

*A. We fully understand that you all are dealing with all kinds of supply chain issues and that you don’t know what you may be missing on a daily basis. We just ask that you elect the meal pattern waiver in CNMS and put as much detail in the comment box as possible. USDA is requiring that we collect duration of waiver use. There will eventually be a spot for you to put begin and end dates. The end date can be changed. Meaning at the end of one week you go in and elect the waiver for the red/orange veg subgroup and you put an end date in. Then at the end of the following week you couldn’t get legumes. You would just add legumes in the comment section and extend the end date*

**7. Renzi experience with OGS food is improving, though not perfect, they seem to have a much better system in place this year and the weekly reports are much appreciated.**

*A. Good News!*

**8. Schools are concerned with their budgets and ability to use entitlement money this year with so many items being cancelled or delayed. Schools are spending more than planned right now, but may be swimming in USDA foods at the end of the year. All of this makes staying within budget and planning for next school year very difficult.**

*A. We understand your frustration. Please take your current stock/supply of commodities into account when ordering and filling out the Food Preference Survey for School Year 2022-23*

**AREA F – Nothing to Report**

**AREA G**

**1. What was the reason for the Pilot Set Aside adjustment before school?**

*A.*  *In School Year 2020-21, New York State exceeded the Pilot cap. For School Year 2021-22, requests exceeded the $3.5 million cap. This was a way for all schools that requested to be in the Pilot, to be able to participate.*

**2. How does a person know how much money was put into the Pilot Program if they are not sure?***A. Schools can run their Entitlement Bonus Summary Report in WBSCM. The Pilot and DoD Entitlement set aside amounts are totaled in the DoD column.*

*If a school is in Pilot only, the dollar value ends in a “1”.
If a school is in DOD only, the dollar value ends in a “2”.
If a school is in Pilot and DoD, the dollar value ends in a “3”.*

*If schools allocated to both DoD and Pilot, you may request your allocation balance by emailing OGS.*

**3. How does entitlement refund for cancelled items work?**

*A. Entitlement for cancelled items is immediately and automatically returned to a school’s account.*

**4. Any information on Administrative Reviews?**

*A. For this year, year 3, ARs will be completely done offsite. SED is currently working on modifying the AR process and will notify schools up for review as soon as possible. We will also provide an AR webinar.*

**5. What is the status of 20-21 PEBT Payments?**

*A. OTDA is still processing data and the issuance of PEBT benefits will continue for several months due to the large number of eligible children and schools participating in the National School Lunch Program across the state. If a child is eligible and has not received P-EBT benefits by late December 2021, then the parent can call the hotline number or fill out the PEBT Information Form.* <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>

**6. Menu challenges – documented dietary restrictions requests that don’t meet the meal pattern?**

*A. We fully understand that you all are dealing with all kinds of supply chain issues and that you don’t know what you may be missing on a daily basis. We just ask that you elect the meal pattern waiver in CNMS and put as much detail in the comment box as possible. USDA is requiring that we collect duration of waiver use. There will eventually be a spot for you to put begin and end dates. The end date can be changed. Meaning at the end of one week you go in and elect the waiver for the red/orange veg subgroup and you put an end date in. Then at the end of the following week you couldn’t get legumes. You would just add legumes in the comment section and extend the end date.*

**7. Very difficult to keep up with supply and demand. It is seen on social media in other states that they can’t get milk delivered. What would happen in this situation as far as meeting the meal pattern?***A. We fully understand that you all are dealing with all kinds of supply chain issues and that you don’t know what you may be missing on a daily basis. We just ask that you elect the meal pattern waiver in CNMS and put as much detail in the comment box as possible. USDA is requiring that we collect duration of waiver use. There will eventually be a spot for you to put begin and end dates. The end date can be changed. Meaning at the end of one week you go in and elect the waiver for the red/orange veg subgroup and you put an end date in. Then at the end of the following week you couldn’t get legumes. You would just add legumes in the comment section and extend the end date.*

**8. Can the Waiver “Wellness Policy TA” be explained in detail?**

*A. On April 2, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver delaying the deadline for the first triennial assessment to June 30, 2021. SFA’s required to complete a triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, may select the LWP waiver deadline of completing the first assessment by June 30, 2022.  This means the second triennial assessment by June 30, 2025. The waiver addresses an opportunity for the First Triennial Assessment to June 30, 2022 only. All other requirements and provisions of LWP continue to be in place – soliciting and gathering a diverse team, appointing leadership, evaluating the school environment, and creating policy at the school level, communicating, and publicly announcing the policies at the school/district level. If your SFA is prepared to complete their triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, we encourage those that are prepared to do so to complete their assessments on time.*

**9. Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Extends the deadline for the triennial assessment from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022?***A. On April 2, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver delaying the deadline for the first triennial assessment to June 30, 2021. SFA’s required to complete a triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, may select the LWP waiver deadline of completing the first assessment by June 30, 2022.  This means the second triennial assessment by June 30, 2025. The waiver addresses an opportunity for the First Triennial Assessment to June 30, 2022 only. All other requirements and provisions of LWP continue to be in place – soliciting and gathering a diverse team, appointing leadership, evaluating the school environment, and creating policy at the school level, communicating and publicly announcing the policies at the school/district level. If your SFA is prepared to complete their triennial assessment by June 30, 2021, we encourage those that are prepared to do so to complete their assessments on time*

**AREA J**

**1. We are a childcare center participating in CACFP and taking commodities as part of the program. The past few years we have had a difficult time with Sysco; late deliveries, completely forgotten deliveries, unanswered phone messages (they never answer the phone), ignored emails, among other frustrations. I thought OGS should know, so please pass it on.***A. Please contact OGS immediately if you have an issue with a distributor.*

**2. With all of the cuts and delays USDA has made, what avenue is there for spending funds? A district can only take in so much diced chicken or strips, never any variety to spend it. I cannot even use the produce program, as they told me they do not even come out this way. I would be so grateful if they could use funds for paper goods. Going to be a nightmare after January 1st when all foam goes away and we cannot get paper or cardboard.***A. The DOD vendor must deliver to all schools in the NSLP program per their contract. If you are not receiving deliveries, alert OGS immediately. SED is aware of the upcoming Styrofoam ban. There is a comment period open on NYS Environmental Conservation’s website through November 22, 2021. https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/120762.html*

*SED has issued Emergency procurement guidance.*

**3. Nothing available is on bid. Most bid items and NOI items are out of stock, forcing me to purchase off the bid at twice the price. I have extra money at OGS, but it is unavailable to me. The Styrofoam ban in NY should be postponed for lack of products available to replace. The extra payment from the feds does not cover the cost of meals being served in this situation.**

*\*A.*

**4. We need more protein options on our brown box offerings! Maybe not so many duplications of veggies (ex. Canned corn vs frozen corn, canned green beans vs frozen green beans)? Also, is Gargiulo our only option for FFAVORS deliveries? Prices way too high, delivery dates are always changing, and we cannot menu these items as we don’t know what we’ll get or when it will come.**

*\*A.*

**5. DoD is a great program, but Gargiulo needs to improve. Never know exactly what day they’re coming, poor communication. Having to order a week ahead is tough, especially when you can’t guarantee what day they’re coming.**

*\*A.*

**6. I agree with the above issues brought about. Cancelled brown box items every year make it extremely hard to plan. DoD Fresh is a great idea, but $18.00 for a watermelon and $48.00 for a case of apples is price gouging.**

*\*A.*

**7. Again, agreeing with all of the above-mentioned comments. The price is expensive for what seems like leftover product. Not being able to menu any of the items on FFAVORS due to uncertainty of product, delivery, and quality.**

*\*A.*

**8. Gargiulo needs to communicate better when they are going to deliver. The price is expensive for what seems like leftover product that is not lasting more than a couple days of coming in.**

*\*A.*

**9. I agree with everyone about offering more protein and with cancelling what we order does make it hard to menu.**

*A. We share the frustration of the impact that supply chain and staffing shortages are having on schools.*

**10. I agree with the protein offerings, but my biggest complaint is how much you have to take at one time! Like 10 cases of spaghetti sauce, 10 cases of peanut butter. Have a hard time finding room for it all at once.**

*\*A.*

**11. I agree! We need more protein items for commodities. DoD is great, but yes prices are way too high sometimes while the quality is not so great.**

*\*A.*

**12. I agree, Gargiulo needs to communicate better on when they are going to deliver. Prices are higher.**

*\*A.*

**13. FFAVORS produce is overprices. Great program, but not the wisest way to spend entitlement. Gargiulo has a history of adjusting their delivery day without communication. It is difficult to create a menu when your product is not guaranteed to come in when ordered. Commodity offerings for the “J” area are too restricted. I personally would love to see more raw products available for scratch recipes. I am hoping to see more offerings of bonus items again this year. Price increases and product shortages have really put a strain on the cafeteria budget and food offerings.
\****A to Questions 4-8, 9-13: OGS encourages schools to coordinate as an area when completing the Food Preference Survey. The Food Preference Survey results determine which USDA Foods will be made available for schools to request. Gargiulo is the only vendor as they won the contract with DLA for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program. Remember, to use or lose USDA Foods entitlement. DOD prices include delivery and all administrative charges. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) checks weekly that prices are fair and reasonable*

**AREA K/W**

**1. There has been extreme difficulty in getting Diversion items on time from our vendors (ex. Yang’s BBQ Teriyaki Chicken, Tyson Breaded Chicken Patties, Cargill Egg Patties).**

*A. This is a procurement issue. Please contact your broker. This is most likely related to the nationwide supply chain and staffing shortages.*

**2. Why are we not being offered foods that we were normally offered in the past (Diced chicken, fajita chicken, canned fruit, frozen strawberries)? Will we see these items return to order? Why are we offered items to order in the first place when they don’t come in and then they have to be taken off? Will canned fruit be offered again? Will applesauce cups and frozen strawberries be offered again? What determines what is available to what districts and who gets offered/delivered which products?**

*A. Diced Chicken and Chicken Fajita Strips were not ordered due to excess inventory in School Year 2020-21multiple areas. Canned Fruit has been delayed due to vendor constraints. Applesauce cups were cancelled and delayed due to vendor constraints as well as a poor harvest. Strawberry cups were cancelled due to a poor harvest.*

**3. The limited availability of brown box items (no peanut butter, American cheese, canned or fresh fruits, fresh sliced apples, French fries) are causing issue as these items would be ordered in bulk. We have to pay per box for a delivery with a flat fee if minimum case count is not met. It is hard to place an order that won’t meet our minimum for delivery with limited availability.***A. Many truckloads have been delayed or cancelled due to vendor constraints and poor harvest. There is also a nationwide driver shortage causing delivery fees to increase.*

**4. We would like the contract to be changed in the future to make it so deliveries are not allowed until 2:30pm when most school kitchens are closed. Also, what is OGS doing to help us with supply chain issues?** **Why are there no supply chain waivers? Is anyone reaching out to the manufacturers with our direct diversion pounds to do anything to help us with more information and food for our students?***A. The USDA DoD Contract is administered by the Defense Logistics Agency. Please contact OGS to address specific needs.*

**5. Will we see an increase of variety for direct delivery? Please take some time to explain what is happening that is preventing variety. Are we going to be brought up to pounds with Direct Diversion? How is that possible if manufacturer do not have product? Where do we stand and where do we go from here on Direct Diversion? How will what is happening this year affect next year’s allocation amount and actual allocations? Delivery days for DoD need to be worked out better. We are schools, there is little to no business on the weekend; why are schools forced to accept Friday deliveries? So many staff leave at 2:00pm, having a delivery after this time hurts the districts. Can more variety and smaller packages become available (like not 50lb of potatoes, maybe 5-10lbs like the other vegetables)?***A. There are currently supply chain issues with commodities. Please email your DoD vendor and cc: OGS with any issues. If you would like different products from DoD, please send your requests to OGS and we will suggest them to our DoD contacts*

**6. Being that we cannot get any of our product that was diverted for processing as well as limited Brown Box items IT IS TIME TO PUSH FOR CASH IN LIEU OF COMMODITIES.***A. This is a federal program which would require action by the federal government. Contact your legislators.*

**AREA L**

**1. Communication with Renzi on OGS and FFS deliveries has been subpar. What is communicated and actually received rarely match. Renzi tries to drop all product at one stop and not at the assigned building. Not necessarily the Driver at fault, but rather the router. Miss working with Big Apple who had it all figured out!***A. If you are having issues with your Distributor alert OGS so we can address the issue.*

**2. Is there any indication of when commodity products will be back in stock and flowing? Is there a list of manufacturers that OGS knows will be shorted truckloads of raw materials from the USDA? This may help with planning if we know there is no hope of getting diverted products.***A. There is no list. OGS doesn’t know the vendors until the commodities are purchased. Due to product shortages and vendor limitations, many orders were cancelled because no vendors bid.*

**3. FFAVORS deliveries are consistently late from Latina Boulevard. Drivers have too many stops on a single truck to complete their route during regular business hours. Cortland CSD and Marathon CSD often receive their delivery after 5:30pm on a Friday when staff is no longer available to check it in. FSD has contacted Latina and come up with a plan to fix it.***A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS.*

**4.** **Can OGS resend the email outlining the process to add funds into FFAVORS as Districts now have more money available with all of the cancellations from manufacturers.***A. Yes, OGS will resend the email. To request additional USDA entitlement be allocated in FFAVORS, schools need to verify available entitlement then complete the USDA DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Survey:*[*https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRMVD8H*](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=16e454fd-497f6dec-16e6adc8-000babd9fe9f-12361da79f41fdfc&q=1&e=733b2872-abaa-4dd4-bfcf-9cafffdd4deb&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FKRMVD8H)

**5.** **Damaged Produce at Westhill CSD from Latina. Advised to call them directly for credit/replacement.***A. Always contact the vendor about damaged product immediately, and cc: OGS so we are aware of the situation. Receipts need to be adjusted in FFAVORS by the school to receive a credit. Original receipt should also be adjusted before signing.*

**6.** **Can the DoD produce contract include a distance clause so that there is a better chance of receiving product in a timely manner?***A. The DoD contracts are administered by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS.*

**7.** **Delivery from Latina Boulevard arriving after 4PM at Baldwinsville on our Friday delivery day. Delivery never showing up on a Friday as Latina driver is over on his hours. Delivery occurred on the following Monday. Delivery from Latina left in parking lot at high school. Produce quality from Latina is generally very good, just lousy logistics. Also Renzi does not communicate about FFS items. Only get information from the brokers at this point.***A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS. Continue to contact your broker about Processing*

**NYC Board of Education**

* Vaccination Mandate starts on Monday, October 4th
* Schools offering different types of service, line service hasn’t fully returned
* Currently concerned with trucking, shortages, and production delays

**Next SLAC meeting dates:**

Friday January 7, 2022

May 13, 2022