

**School Lunch Advisory Council (SLAC)  
Meeting Notes – May 13, 2022**

Attendees:

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

Maureen Barbic  
Gabrielle Viens  
Adam Wright

Frank Palmo  
Anja Allnach  
Debra Hesch

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

Adrienne Vingiello

**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 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):**

Jennifer Martin

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

- Four OGS employees recently attended the annual [American Commodities Distribution Association \(ACDA\)](#) conference. This conference is an educational opportunity to learn about USDA Foods in NSLP, CACFP, CSFP and TEFAP. An individual can earn 10 or more USDA Continuing Education Units (CEU's). ACDA conference attendees include USDA personnel, State Distributing Agencies, Recipient Agencies, nationally certified processing companies, distributors, and food service management companies. The conference is an opportunity to share ideas, challenges, and network with colleagues in the industry. OGS highly recommends this conference for Food Service Directors.
- The USDA will be publishing a USDA Foods Database that leverages the GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) to fulfill a requirement to make nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information available for USDA Foods products for NSLP participants (brown box items). The requirement went into effect January 1, 2022, so all approved USDA vendors must enter their information into this database. The database will be updated monthly once the database goes live. This database will also be replacing the fact sheets.
- OGS has updated the training section on our website. There are now 15, 3-to-5-minute, training videos for Food Service Directors. Videos include common WBSCM tasks such as how to register, order and run reports. Videos are accompanied by a PDF guide with step-by-step instructions. If you would like more training videos, please complete the feedback survey located below the Ordering USDA Foods Training section of the training page.
- OGS wants your feedback on how we are doing. There is now a link to provide feedback located at the bottom of each OGS FD email.

**2021-22 School Year**

**Direct Delivery (Brown Box)**

Sysco Albany communicated to schools that due to supply chain challenges, they are not taking part in the bidding process for the 2022-23 School Year. Schools may use the OGS Procurement contracts, however these contracts count as only one quote per federal regulations. Schools must get quotes from two other sources. During the meeting, OGS

Procurement Services provided a brief overview of how to use the OGS Procurement contracts. (<https://online.ogs.ny.gov/purchase/spg/awards/0245023199CAN.HTM>)

## **Processing**

- On June 30, 2022, processors will be sweeping unused pounds to the state account. These pounds will be fair shared among schools' orders for School Year 2022-23.

## **USDA DoD Fresh Program (DoD)**

- CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) Bonus DoD funds will be available from July 1 – Sept. 30. Funds have been allocated to the state as one lump sum in FFAVORS. School orders will draw down from the lump sum until Sept. 30 or the funds have been depleted. NSLP allocations will not be uploaded to FFAVORS until the prior criteria has been met. School orders placed against the CCC Bonus DoD funds will not draw down on a school's entitlement or their DoD allocation. OGS will be sending out an email regarding this soon.

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

- Food Distribution has been notifying schools who have overspent in the Pilot program. Please compare the over spent amounts reported with your spreadsheet of Pilot orders. If the numbers do not match, please let us know.
- There has been some confusion between the DoD & Pilot program. For the Pilot program schools must properly procure their vendor. The vendor and products must be on the approved eligible Pilot list, and New York State is capped at \$3.5 million for the Pilot program. There is no cap to the DoD Program. Vendor and products are procured by the Department of Defense (DOD) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

## **2022-23 School Year**

- School entitlements for School Year 2022-23 will be less than School Year 2021-22. This is because New York State carried over \$39 million of entitlement from School Year 2020-21 into School Year 2021-22 and this was fair shared to all schools for the 2021-2022 School Year. There will be very little entitlement carried over from SY2021-22 to SY2022-23.
- The USDA is already purchasing foods for School Year 2022-23 and prices are coming in high. There may need to be some adjustments to USDA DoD Fresh Program or USDA Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables (PILOT) allocations if school entitlements become grossly overspent.

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

FY21 Equipment Grant- was due 3/31/22- SED received roughly 620 applications. About \$1.8 million in funding to award. We are currently scoring the applications, will hopefully have awards posted in a month. Project start date- 7/1/22

FY20 Equipment Grant- funds were set to expire 9/30/22 but USDA is allowing a 1-year extension, so awarded SFAs have until 9/30/23 to complete project activities. Email: [foodequip@SED.gov](mailto:foodequip@SED.gov)

### **1. Will there be a 30-day carryover on Free/Reduced applications?**

*A. There is a USDA waiver that SED is applying for that waives the requirement for carryover to be based on eligibility from the preceding year. Instead, schools may use the most recent available eligibility data, including data from SY 2019-2020, for the 30-day carryover period for SY 2022-23. This is only available for schools that operated SSO in SY 2021-22.*

### **2. SFSP – When will the renewal process be available in the Portal?**

*A. Next Thursday (May 19, 2022) or Friday (May 20, 2022).*

### **3. PEBT update on processing/any other information?**

*A. OTDA is in the process of using individual student attendance data to reconcile benefits for 2020-21. All data has been submitted, so nothing further is needed from parents or schools. If a child is eligible, they will receive a benefit.*

### **4. When will the list of SFA Audits be posted for SY 22-23? SFSP audit list also?**

*A. SFSP is posted. NLSP will be posted in the fall.*

**5. We, like everyone, are dreading the return to paid meals. It will be devastating to our program from a participation and negative balance standpoint. While we very much appreciate the PEBT management and supply chain assistance funding, it would be so much more impactful for USDA and the state to build and fund a sustainable free meal program rather than the one offs.**

A. I think the only way there would be universal free meals is if the federal government funded it. We ran the numbers, and it would cost NY \$200 million to provide free meals for all students for a year. With that said, SED sent a letter to the Senate supporting the Support Kids Not Red Tape Act, or the free meal act as we have been referring to it as, as well as the Keeping School Meals Flexible Act, which would also provide for free meals.

**6. Thank you for covering the NSLP Assessment fees for the SY 21-22!**

**7. Having just watched the Meal Modification Training I would like to know what guidance and procedural information RA's can expect from the state?**

A. On our website on the main page, under upcoming events there is a link for "ICN's Virtual Instructor-Led Trainings." The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is offering virtual training sessions during the summer of 2022. There are several topics and one of them is meal modifications. There is a link to register for a session. You can receive an email notification when new training materials are posted on the Child Nutrition Knowledge Center by subscribing to our LISTSERV.

**8. We appreciate that all fees are picked up by OGS and Child Nutrition for the year!**

**NEW YORK SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION (SNA)**

**2022 CONFERENCE**

- Registration is now open for the 2022 annual conference
- October 21-22, 2022
- The conference committee has reimagined the event and there are so many exciting education workshops, innovative solution sessions, networking, exhibits, and more
- SNA has been presenting at numerous ASBO events to promote participation in the association, and to seek support for food service operators from their business officials to attend conference and events. Programs have all been focused on using SNA resources to Strengthen Your School Meal Programs.

**UNIVERSAL MEALS**

SNA is planning a webinar/press conference in May to keep pushing for universal meals in New York State. The goal is to convey to legislators what will happen to students and school food programs when the waivers expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> and to ask for their help. We are pursuing two simultaneous tracks:

- We need individual legislators to reach out to Congress in support of the federal Government extending the waiver. They can do this individually or by signing the sign on letter being spearheaded by AM Gonzales-Rojas and hopefully Sen. Hinchey
- Given that the federal government has not come through on this to date, we are asking New York State to fund universal meals. Please support and communicate to leadership that this needs to be a priority for the State.

**Position Paper**

**FRESH BITES**

- Spring 2022 issue: <https://publications.nyschoolnutrition.org/view/70549567/>
- Summer edition to be released in June

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*\*visit website for updated listing of events, including upcoming spring area workshops around the state*

October 21-22, 2022	SNA Annual Conference – Verona, NY
November 9, 2022	Fresh Bites Deadline (2023 Winter Issue)
November 30, 2022	SNA Regional Industry Seminar – Long Island, NY
December 14, 2022	SNA Regional Industry Seminar – Rochester, NY
December 15, 2022	SNA Regional Industry Seminar – Saratoga, NY

**SNA Communication Channels**

- Email
- Website
- Monthly e-newsletters
- Quarterly digital publication (Fresh Bites)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn)

- SNA News

Be sure your correct email is on file with the HQ office to receive regular communications.

**USDA:**

The waiver to opt-in to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that allowed states to base USDA Food entitlement calculations on the 2018-19 School Year lunch counts (the most recent full in-person school year) ends on June 30, 2022. This means that in November 2022, School Year 2022-23 lunch counts will be reconciled to actual lunch counts from the 2021-22 School Year. Food Distribution is and will continue to closely monitor lunch counts as they are reported compared to orders for School Year 2022-23. The current entitlement amount is \$124.5 Million. Purchased orders to date, total \$71.3 Million. Food purchases are coming in much higher than previous years. Overall, lunch counts are 30% lower at this same time compared to School Year 2018-19.

**AREA A**

**1. I received my DoD delivery in dirty, wet, boxes and my six heads of lettuce in a Ken’s Salad Dressing box, so the box did not match the product. Latina responded to me saying the wet box may be due to snow and they apologized that the box was dirty as they only try to use clean boxes for times like this. I alerted both Latina and OGS of this complaint.**

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

**2. Today we received product that expires Tuesday 3/1 from DoD. Today is 2/24/22, but I informed Boulevard we were on break until 2/28/22. So that gives us one day for Salad Mix and Apple Slices. Not sure how product rotation works there for DoD, but we accepted some and denied most. Very tight use by dates has been a previous occurrence.**

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

**3. I received this Sales Order Change email today and so I went into WBSCM to see what I was receiving. I pulled the value of commodities received report (which I do several times per week) and this is what it showed:**

100351	BEANS GREEN FRZ CTN-30 LB	4/15/2022	4/7/2022	NSLP	7.000
100256	STRAWBERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.5 OZ	4/15/2022	4/7/2022	NSLP	10.000

**As you can see the date received is 4/7/22, and my question is why is it taking so long for these to show in my account? Today is April 20<sup>th</sup> and it says they were received on April 7<sup>th</sup>, yet the items were not showing last week or yesterday?**

*A. According to the Received Shipment Report, Palmer did receive these loads on 4/7/22, however Palmer did not receipt for them in WBSCM until 4/19/22. This will be addressed with Palmer.*

**AREA C**

Nothing to report

**AREA D**

Nothing to report

**AREA E**

**1. Renzi’s reporting and delivery are much better this year.**

*A. Wonderful news!*

**2. Gargiulo is FRUSTRATING! They have such a large delivery window, and no set delivery day so it is impossible for us to take full advantage of the program without having managers waiting around, unsure of when they can expect their deliveries. We have worked around this by getting one large delivery to our central warehouse and then distributing ourselves, but this means we can only order what we have the capacity to store overnight-basically enough sliced apple packages for each school. Even with this, our set delivery day is "Wednesday " but then without telling us, they might move it to Thursday or Friday. In our example if we don’t receive the apples until Friday, they don’t go out to schools until Monday, and then we receive another delivery Wednesday, we can sometimes have a major backup. Based on this unreliability we cannot allow our 32 schools to order directly, as it could leave them without ANY produce at all for several days. It would be so great if they could subcontract with a more local company so we could take advantage of direct delivery to each of our schools.**

*Please continue to report any issues with DoD vendors to OGS.*

**3. How is the resolution of previously reported DoD Fresh issues coming along? Short shelf-life of fresh cut fruits/vegetables and RTE salads, unexpected cancellations, and required 8-day lead time for orders?**

*A. Please continue to report issues to your DoD vendor and OGS. "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. If the manufacturer recommended shelf life is less than 14-days, the Contracting Officer must be notified in advance and approve shelf life. Any deviation from these requirements must be approved prior to customer delivery, in writing, by the Contracting Officer."*

The above statement appears (in Product Quality Part A # 2 of each solicitation):

- East - Gargiulo - SPE 300-20-DS737 contract solicitation ([SPE300-19-R-0025](#))
- West - Latina Blvd Foods - SPE 300-19-DP346 solicitation ([SPE300-19-R-0025](#))
- Southern - Gargiulo - SPE 300-17-DP305 solicitation ([SPM300-16-R-0045](#)).

The DoD contacts, solicitations, and amendments can be found at the link below:

<https://www.dla.mil/TroopSupport/Subsistence/FoodServices/Regions/CONUS/MFEast/NewYork.aspx>

*OGS will also be following up with the Vendor and DLA to get this issue resolved.*

**4. We, like everyone, are dreading the return to paid meals. It will be devastating to our program from a participation and negative balance standpoint. While we very much appreciate the PEBT management and supply chain assistance funding, it would be so much more impactful for USDA and the state to actually build and fund a sustainable free meal program rather than these one offs.**

*A. Please see the response in the SED section above.*

#### **AREA F**

Nothing to report.

#### **AREA G**

**1. We continue to be very satisfied with the USDA Brown Box deliveries from Sysco – program works well, Sysco is very responsible, deliveries are frequent and allow us to manage our food and storage capacity very well. On the processed commodity side, that is still a bit of a challenge. Tyson beef has been a bust, only 17 cases of burgers received out of 300 ordered for the year, every month we are told orders are shorted. I do have pounds on for other processors that I need to use, especially Michaels. I still feel direct delivery saved the program this year and got us through the Supply Chain issues that will continue.**

*A. The regional USDA office did some follow-up about Michaels. It seems that the vendor who was supplying tankers to Michael's and another vendor for at least April and May deliveries couldn't get the product and somehow AMS cancelled the contract. It was about 2M pounds just to Michael's. AMS took those pounds and put them on a new solicitation for July and August demand, but things don't look good. It's boiling down to price and availability. The Avian Flu (AI) is creating product shortages and prices are going up commercially. Vendors are also still experiencing labor problems which is why some are limiting product lines. Unfortunately, many of the "egg" products that distributors may have in inventory do not meet the CN requirements.*

**2. Is there any thought being given to rolling over allocation in certain manufacturers if we were unable to use it all due to lack of availability. For me this only really applies to Land O Lakes. I've taken in whatever has come into the distributor, but I've had to substitute string cheese with Frigo since LOL wasn't in stock. This can even be demonstrated (if needed) that if we were unable to get the LOL string cheese instead of the Frigo brand we would have run out of allocation before the end of the year.**

*A. Unused pounds will be swept at the end of June as normal to maintain USDA inventory levels at all National Processors.*

**3. Thank you for the end of year direct delivery emails of no cost items.**

*A. Glad to help!*

**4. Thank you for covering the NSLP Assessment fees for the SY 21-22!**

*A. You're welcome!*

**5. How do you know if a Sales Order Change (WBSM notification) is for SY 21-22 or 22-23? It does not specify the year.**

*A. Each WBSM Sales Order Change notification has a Requested Delivery Date and a Vendor Expected Delivery Date, to indicate which school year the notification is for. OGS advises to run your Requisition Status Report to verify program year.*

**6. Bonus items – “late breaking 1/20/22 email”. How do I check in WBSM?**

*A. Run your Requisition Status Report after clearing the “program” field, or to only see CCC orders, enter CCC in the program field. An instructional video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/t9BYVfq7Y68>*

## **AREA J**

Nothing to report

## **AREA K/W**

**1. Having just watched the Meal Modification Training, I would like to know what guidance and procedural information RA’s can expect from the state?**

*A. Please see the response in the SED section above.*

**2a. When school is closed for a week there is no way to order produce for the week we return. I send emails back and forth. For example, we will not be here 4/20 to place the order for 4/27 delivery. There should be a way to order these items in the system when vacation weeks occur. Sometimes the emails are sufficient, but in the past, orders have been mixed up.**

**2b. We are dealing with the same issues brought up before. Today is Thursday, 4/14, the furthest I can order FFAVORS is 4/22. We need to have access to the following week AFTER spring recess. The system is forcing directors to work on days off just to put in a produce order. Extend the ordering schedule, we need to have a few weeks of access. We plan all other menus ahead we need this to be planned as well.**

*A. OGS has spoken with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in concern to this issue. Unfortunately, due to the variations in school districts break schedule, it is not possible to offer more than the current lead time in FFAVORS. It would be a burden to the vendors to ask them to have catalogs available 2-3 weeks in advance. In addition, the price of produce can change rapidly, and there is no way to account for these changes in FFAVORS.*

**3. Food supply issues – What will happen to the pounds that we were unable to use due to supply chain issues? Do we have to request a specific delivery date for our brown box delivery, or will we be told when they will be delivering the brown box items to our district?**

*A. Unused pounds will be swept, as normal, at the end of June and then allocated to SY2022-23 orders as available. The new vendor will determine your brown box delivery date.*

## **AREA L**

**1. Todd Fowler is retiring at the end of June!**

*A. Congratulations!*

**2. Glad that there is plenty of brown box product coming in later in the year! FFS distribution with Tasty Brands has been a challenge this year. Concern that the diverted entitlement to Advance Pierre will be swept at the end of the year due to their production issues. We would like to have it rolled over.**

*A. Unused pounds will be swept at the end of June, they will not be rolled over.*

**3. My USDA broccoli has not been very good. About 10-15% of what is in my box like what is in one of the attachments (tiny broccoli pieces). I also included a pic of the label. This is a first for me, as the broccoli has always been pretty good.**

*A. Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our [website](#). Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and the sales order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to USDA.*

**4. Brian Wright is retiring in July!**

*A. Congratulations!!*

**5. Plenty of product coming in with Brown Box! Some damaged Strawberry Cups and a Complaint Form filled out in April. We appreciate that all fees are picked up by OGS and Child Nutrition this year! Renzi has been consistent with sending out what is in their warehouse and when it will be delivered to schools.**

## NYC Board of Education

**1. Ordering timeline needs to be revised. How can we order product for next year not knowing the brand? I.E. Peanut butter – America PB doesn't contain partially hydrogenated oil, so NYC can use, but we can't get an answer if next years' brand does. So, that means we cancelled 8-9 truckloads of PB. Another item NYC can't use off the USDA Foods Available List.**

*A. The USDA issues solicitations for USDA Foods based on requests submitted by schools through their State Distributing Agency (SDA). (In NY, OGS is the SDA.) Awards are then made to vendors who bid and meet the bid requirements. Therefore, a vendor is not known until after the award is made. At the point an award is made, it cannot be cancelled. If there is an exact product needed, processing a bulk item is an option.*

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2000008503%20-%20Bid%20Invitation.pdf>

**2.) How are the Product Information Sheets accurate when:**

- I.E. 100127 Beef, Canned not updated since August 2014**
- 110854 Peanut Butter, Ind not updated since June 2018**
- 110694 Tortillas, WG/WG Rich not updated since Sept 2015**
- 110393 Pancakes, WG/WG Rich not updated since Jan 2016**

*A. USDA's new database will take care of this issue*

**3.) Nutritional labels have not been updated; they are now required to show added sugar!**

*A. USDA's new database will take care of this issue*

**4.) MM (Menu management) questioned 110361 Applesauce, unsweetened cups. How can the carbs be 14g and the sugar be 18g?**

*A. The USDA provided response as follow:*

*Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The Product Information Sheets are created using a compilation of data that was voluntarily submitted from multiple USDA Foods vendors for this product and are not reflective of one specific product from one vendor. In reviewing the nutrition information we received from the different vendors supplying this product, it appears that one of the vendors supplied nutrition information that indeed has more grams of sugars than carbohydrates.*

*We do not have plans to update the Product Information Sheets at this time because we will be phasing them out and replacing them with our new resource, [the USDA Foods Database](#), set to release in the coming months. The USDA Foods Database will make vendor-specific nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information available for USDA Foods products so you will be able to access the specific nutrition information for each product, from each supplier. This will allow State Agencies and schools to ensure that all nutrition information is accurate for USDA Foods products.*

**5.) A suggestion for production dates:**

- a. Use open codes OR**
- b. Schools that receive the new brand, email them a sample on how to decipher the production date**

*A. Your suggestion has been noted.*

**6.) The Fresh Ideas seed butter consistency is runny. Official complaint has been logged.**

*A. A commodity complaint has been submitted to the USDA.*

## School Year 2022-23 SLAC meeting dates:

- Friday, September 30, 2022 (in Person)
- Friday, January 6, 2023 (Virtual)
- Friday, May 12, 2023 (in Person)

This meeting completed the second and final terms for SLAC members Karen Bronson-Clark, Area A, and Lisa Ostrowski, Area J. Also, Brian Wright, Area L, who will be retiring in July. New SLAC representatives will be selected for these areas.