

Valley Stream District # 30 Nutrition Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:

December 5, 2023

Location:

Google meet

Attendees:

Marcela Moran, Suzanne Brady, Alysha Torres, Shabeena Shakur, Dara Greenidge-Haynesworth, Colleen Doerr

Start Time:

2:35 pm

Items discussed:

Revision of previous meeting minutes - October 2023

- Reviewed previous meeting minutes if they had any questions

Menus

- Menus will be published in Parentsquare as an additional way to keep the community informed. The menus are also posted in the schools, and on our website.

Halal Menu

- A request was made that pre order forms be sent out in advance for students wanting Halal meals on a monthly basis.
- Aramark was not in agreement with the form since children order from the classroom on a daily basis.
- Aramark is exploring new recipes for more Halal options, especially meat options.
- Chicken nuggets or popcorn chicken is currently the only available option for Halal meats, but they do offer vegetarian options daily.
- A question was raised regarding cross contamination of Halal food and non-Halal foods.

Milk Shortage

The mission of Valley Stream Union Free School District 30, through collaboration with staff, parents and community, is to educate all students to their fullest potential.

- As of right now, NY is not affected by the milk shortage.
- The shortage is not the milk , it is actually the carton.
- Having milk poured on a daily basis for elementary school aged students is not an option so Aramark is looking into other options.
- The container shortage is also affecting the juice that is served.
- Aramark is aware and looking for options and will keep the School Districts posted.

Reimbursements

- Aramark has credited eligible meals to the School Bucks account.
- VSCHD is now in the process of transferring balances or issuing check refunds.
- Parents that requested a refund will be issued a check on or about December 15, 2023.
- Refunds only consist of eligible meals that were purchased prior to CEP which started as of July 1, 2023.
- School Bucks and cash are accepted forms of payment for al la carte options.

Household Income Eligibility Form

- VS 30 District is encouraging the community to fill out a Household Income Eligibility Form. The form is located on the Valley Stream 30 website, under the Community Section and in the CEP-Community Eligibility Program section.
- Meals will still be free.
- The form impacts grants that the District can receive.
- The forms can also make students eligible to cover SAT/PSAT fees, college application fees, for example.
- The income verification form will not impact the free lunch status but provide additional benefits.
- A CEP form will be sent out in December and we encourage all families to fill it out for benefits to the District and the VS 30 community.

End time:

3:05 pm

Next Health and Safety meeting date:

03/05/2024

**** Please note a time change to 2pm was requested for the next Nutrition meeting****