

Minutes for the District Wellness Committee Meeting on December 6, 2017:

Meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m.

Introduction by Drew Cone about the purpose and goals of the wellness committee. Updated the committee on the progress of the JUA grant at Central Elem. The City has completed the project. King Elem. trail and outdoor fitness equipment should begin in Spring 2018. After 20 years with Pepsi, VBSD has switched to Coke. We are in the process of getting all coolers and vending machines changed out.

Roy Kendrick, Child Nutrition Director, provided January menus and informed the committee of:

- Fruit and vegetable grant for healthy snacks has been implemented in three elem. schools.
- Healthy taste tests of month are being conducted in cafeterias in conjunction with FoodCorps (Sept.-sweet potato, Oct.-beets, Nov.-Spaghetti squash, Dec.-Parsnips).
- Cafeterias are being updated with new equipment,
- Looking into salad bar grants for elem. schools.
- VBHS cafeteria is going through a complete remodeling to provide more options as a food court type setting, this project will begin over Christmas break
- VBSD free and reduced is approx. 62%.
- Bids are being submitted for a Child Nutrition food truck.
- All food/drink pass through the Smart Snack calculator to be served at school.
- No competitive food/drink can be served during school hours.

Becky Goerig made a motion to approve menus; Teresa Bell seconded the motion, menus approved.

Delaney Farris, FoodCorps Service Member, reported about FoodCorps progress in its second year of existence at King and Tate Elementary and first semester at Rena and Parkview.

- Fully functioning gardens at King and Tate were implemented last school year.
- Tate has chickens that are producing eggs to be used in the cafeteria.
- Taste Tests of the Month are being conducted in each school. January will be cabbage, and there is enough cabbage in the gardens at King and Tate to conduct the test.
- Nutrition lessons are being taught weekly by Mary Grace and Delaney.
- Rena garden beds will begin construction in January.
- Tate and King won "Gardens of the Year" by Arkansas Grown and Farm Credit and were recognized by Governor Hutchinson and received \$500 each.

Rachel Bond, nurse at Tate Elementary, reported that 1,506 flu shots were given. She shared with the committee that whooping cough is spreading and the need to take precaution.

Joe Hurst, with the community, reported about the 55 acre trail development in Van Buren that would include bike trails and a skills course. There has been many private donors invest in bringing the trail system into fruition. With the development of downtown Van Buren and Freedom Park, it is noticeable that more citizens are becoming actively involved.

Also, Mr. Hurst informed us that 16% of children in our community have parents who have been or who are incarcerated, which ranks us #1 in the nation. This correlates to the lack of knowledge children have about nutrition and opportunities to live healthy lifestyles.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.