

Dr. Cohen,

Pursuant to our BOE Policy below, you are responsible for the overall Student Wellness we implement at our district.

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## 6:50 School Wellness

Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, shall be promoted in the District's educational program, school-based activities, and meal programs. This policy shall be interpreted consistently with Section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA).

**The Superintendent will ensure:**

1. Each school building complies with this policy;
  2. The policy is available to the community on an annual basis through copies of or online access to the Board Policy Manual; and
  3. The community is informed about the progress of this policy's implementation.
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It has come to my attention from conversations with my daughters that things are being served at MES that I question meet the nutritional guidelines stipulated by law. I would like to know what measures you have in place to ensure we are compliant with these legal mandates. Please lay out for the BOE what you are doing to manage this and how, for our knowledge.

1. High sugar fruit snacks and Izzie carbonated sugar filled beverages are available for purchase at MES during school hours. How did you confirm these are not prohibited options?

The Fruit Snacks are not HIGH Sugar, the fruit snacks available meet the gov't requirements for smart snacks. The sugar filled beverages are NOT available at MES. They are only available at MIS and MJHS. The Switch/Izze beverages are 100% fruit juices, the sugars are natural sugars. The Izze beverage is actually compliant with the age nutritional requirements at MES but it is not served at MES.

We confirm that there are no prohibited options by following the National School Lunch Program guidelines. We are audited by the state agency every three years for compliance. For example, at one time, we offered Gushers at all three buildings. Gushers did not meet the guidelines and were removed from the offerings.

2. Monitoring requirement: How and when did you last update the BOE with reporting on how you are implementing the overall program? Back in June when I broached the subject of school lunches, I was told this had never been done to anyone's recollection. Yet, our policy (revised in Feb 2023) requires a triennial report. Why have you not produced that? I don't understand how this wasn't identified back in February when you'd initiated the policy revision.

In April 2022, we were audited by the state. The state suggested Dragon Juice be offered as a vegetable option. 8 out of ten students take the juice as a vegetable option daily at all three buildings. When this option was implemented, Ann Lewandowski, our Food Service Director

came to the board meeting and reported on the overall program. Ann also reports on the program through the monthly board reports that are included in the CSBO report. For example, she will write about the commodity order, the milk bidding process, or the state audit reports.

#### Monitoring

At least every three years, the Superintendent shall provide implementation data and/or reports to the Board concerning this policy's implementation sufficient to allow the Board to monitor and adjust the policy (a triennial report). This triennial report must include without limitation each of the following:

- An assessment of the District's implementation of the policy
- The extent to which schools in the District are in compliance with the policy
- The extent to which the policy compares to model local school wellness policies

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- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the policy
- How the District will make the results of the assessment available to the public
- Where the District will retain records of the assessment

The Board will monitor and adjust the policy pursuant to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

3. Our policy goes into detail about engaging with stakeholders on this subject. Why are we not doing that? Here again, I don't understand how this wasn't identified as a need when you had initiated the policy revision in February.

The Wellness Policy is reviewed by the state when the food service department is audited.

**The policy included physical exercise and mandated minutes of PE.**

#### Community Involvement

The Board and Superintendent will actively invite suggestions and comments concerning the development, implementation, periodic reviews, and updates of the school wellness policy from parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the community. Community involvement methods shall align their suggestions and comments to policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board* and/or the **Community Engagement** subhead in policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.

4. What is our Unused Food Sharing Plan? For our reference, please provide the BOE a document that details that.

We don't have an Unused Food Sharing Plan.

5. Can you please confirm we are providing a plant based option for lunches.

If we have a request from a parent for a specific dietary option, we will provide a plant-based diet. As of today, we have not had a request by a parent for a plant-based diet.

**Note:** [HB4089 \(Plant-based school lunch option\)](#) will become effective **August 1, 2023**. It requires public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program to provide a plant-based school lunch option to students who submit a prior request. Additionally, the plant-based option must meet applicable NSLP meal pattern and nutrition requirements. Guidance on how to meet this requirement is provided in this chapter.

There are other things on your list that may be a higher priority, I understand that. You do not take direction from me or any single board member, BUT if we are not compliant with the established food nutritional law it will need your timely attention. Please respond to the BOE with an update on each of these concerns and what your plan will be to address them, and when.