

(Item 10) Action on Resolution 1718R-004 by Directors Phillips and Voss Regarding School Nutrition

Background

On September 28, 2017, the Board deferred action on Resolution 1718R-004 by Directors Phillips and Voss, regarding school nutrition, to allow the Administration additional time to complete the analysis and to conduct listening sessions.

The Resolved portion of the resolution reads:

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors directs the Superintendent or designee to:

1. create a non-repeating three-week school nutrition menu cycle with hot meals for breakfast that:
 - limits processed, high-sugar offerings, and
 - increases the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, including offering fresh fruit at breakfast at a minimum of two times a week and at lunch a minimum of three times a week;
2. supply trays and/or plates, rather than cardboard or tin cups, which will decrease food waste during school breakfast and school lunch;
3. establish regular communication between community members and school nutrition leadership in order to seek and foster input from students, parents, teachers, and staff on school menus; and
4. maximize meal time with lunch away from the desk and breakfast in the classroom and provide school lunch times on school websites.

A variety of methods was used to gather input on the MPS School Nutrition Program, including four student focus groups; online student surveys; and listening sessions. A dedicated email address was established and advertised on the district's website to give those who could not attend a listening session a way to provide input. Approximately 100 students participated in the focus groups, and nearly 16,000 MPS students completed the online survey during National School Lunch Week. The Administration conducted nine listening sessions on the MPS School Nutrition Program. Nearly 200 parents, students, staff, and community members attended these sessions and provided input.

One station focused on identifying the best methods for establishing consistent communication with SNS (School Nutrition Services) relative to the breakfast and lunch programs. Potential methods included comment boxes, tasting stations, student focus groups, student surveys, social media, and appointments with dietitians. Tasting sessions was the most popular method selected, followed by social media, student focus groups, and student surveys.

Another station focused on preferences related to trays and utensils. Based on the input for this station, SNS recently ordered a sturdier five-compartment tray for traditional cooking sites that meet eco-friendly and compostable/recyclable standards. It is expected to arrive at MPS schools later this school year.

All the data and input were reviewed by the Department of Innovation Development and compiled in a report titled "Results from the Nutrition Resolution Focus Groups, Student Survey, and Listening Sessions" (attached to the minutes of your Committee's meeting).

As a result of all the data, feedback, and analysis, SNS will continue the three-week traditional breakfast menu cycle, which provides hot meals a minimum of twice a week. SNS will move towards an 11-day breakfast in the classroom cycle menu, offering additional choices of reduced-sugar and whole-grain cereals and crackers, replacing a whole-grain cracker with a protein item a minimum of once per week, and offering a choice of fresh fruit a minimum of two times per week. Both menus provide students with one cup of fruit daily for breakfast. At lunch, fresh fruits and vegetables are offered a minimum of three times per week.

Each school administrator governs meal times and length of service based on the scheduled curriculum. Posting lunch times on school websites could unknowingly cause safety concerns by identifying the approximate times large numbers of students would be gathered in one location. The lunch schedule may vary during the school year due to testing or unforeseen circumstances. Because all 160 schools are responsible for updating their own websites, ensuring consistency in updating this information would be difficult. In alignment with the resolution, the Administration will continue to work with school leaders to maximize the lunch period.

Strategic Plan Compatibility Statement

Goal 3, Effective and Efficient Operations

Statute, Administrative Policy, or Board Rule Statement

Administrative Policy 4.05, School Nutrition Management

Fiscal Impact Statement

Initial adjustments to the SNS budget include a tray upgrade for an increased annual cost of \$10,300 and a utensil upgrade with an increased annual cost of approximately \$206,000. Refrigerators needed to support the addition of fresh fruit to the serving line will be a one-time additional cost of about \$543,000. The total estimated additional costs for the first year will be \$759,300. Year two and beyond will have an estimated additional total annual increased cost of \$216,300. SNS will cover these costs through its operating budget and applied surplus.

Implementation and Assessment Plan

Upon approval by the Board, the Administration will begin implementation.

Committee's Recommendation

Your Committee recommends that the Board:

1. adopt Resolution 1718R-004 as amended below:

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors directs the Superintendent or designee to:

1. create a non-repeating three-week school nutrition menu cycle with hot meals for traditional breakfast and move towards an eleven-day breakfast in the classroom cycle menu that:
 - limits processed, high-sugar offerings, and
 - increases the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, including offering fresh fruit at breakfast at a minimum of two times a week, and maintains the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables at lunch a minimum of three times a week;
 2. supply compostable/recyclable trays and/or plates, ~~rather than cardboard or tin cups,~~ which will decrease food waste during school breakfast and school lunch;
 3. establish regular communication between community members and school nutrition leadership in order to seek and foster input from students, parents, teachers, and staff on school menus; and
 4. maximize meal time with lunch away from the desk and breakfast in the classroom ~~and provide school lunch times on school websites.~~
2. direct that quarterly updates on the implementation of the resolution to be brought to the Board through committee.