

Richmond Public Schools

School Board Meeting

Date: April 2, 2012

Agenda Item: SR11-12-5-4

Description: A Report on School Nutrition Services and the Mayor's Food Task Force

Presenter: Victoria S. Oakley

In the summer of 2011, the City of Richmond formed a Food Policy Task Force to address a myriad of challenges facing the city related to the way its residents eat. Seven Food Policy Subgroups were formed: Enterprise Development, Food Security, Education and Awareness, Health and Nutrition, School and Community Gardens, Quality of School Food and Community Assessment.

Susan Roberson and Charlene Rodgers from Richmond Public Schools served on the Quality of School Food subgroup. Below is a draft of the recommendations that will be shared at a public forum on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at Bryd Park at the Carillon at 5:30 p.m.

Recommendation #1

The City should established a standing Working Group for Healthier School Food to provide a forum for all RPS food system stakeholders to participate in visioning, dialogue, policy creation and implementation of projects related to transforming, and instituting continuous quality improvement in RPS meals and service, including all foods served, sold and available throughout the RPS system and partner departments that serve RPS students and staff.

Recommendation #2

The City (Mayor, Council, School Board and community at-large) should anticipate and begin making provision for new capital funding sources to support upgrades in RPS kitchen infrastructure and equipment required to add more fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and other unprocessed foods to school menus, per updated USDA nutritional standards.

Recommendation #3

RPS should work to increase the use of fresh/raw/unprocessed foods by expanding the purchase of produce sourced from local growers to reach a minimum of 10% of total food purchases.

Recommendation #4

RPS under the auspices of the Working Group for Healthier School Food should address the quality of (and specifications for) food available to RPS students at before- and after-school programs, particularly including those run by partner City departments, and effect both consistency and enforcement of improved standards under the RPS Local Wellness Policy.

Recommendation #5

RPS under the auspices of the Working Group for Healthier School Food and with appropriate community partners should expand nutrition/cooking education to include parents and families, faculty and staff, in order to ensure a consistent message linking nutrition education, science, school meals/food, Local Wellness Policy language, etc.