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**SoWashCo Wellness Committee: Meeting Minutes**

**Date and Time:** January 10, 2022

**Attendees:** Kari Schmitz, Kerri Kvasager, Chloe Richter, Bobbie Jo Grummons, Melanie Garms, Sarah Aldrich, Theresa Gravelle Foss, Jana Stepka, Lauren Stordahl, Lynn Walek, Rochelle Sward

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| **Topic:**  | **Action Plan/Decisions:**  |
| * **District Wide Staffing Needs**: In the nutrition department alone, we lost 40 team members during the covid furlough of 2020.
 | * **Offering of a $1000 retention bonus: $500 at 90 days and $500 at 180 days.**
* **We have made announcements both in parent and administrative newsletters.**
* **It is encouraged to members of the committee to tell friends and family who would be a good fit for our district.**

**\*\*It should be noted that although we still have staffing issues, there is a bright side to this: we have acquired numerous applicants with the help of communication newsletters as well as the offer of the retention bonus. We are looking much better than we were at the beginning of the school year.**  |
| * **Menus:** We have lost a lot of our student’s “favorite foods” due to either manufacturers going out of business or discontinuing product. Our current milk vendor is not capable of providing enough milk for our district, due to paper shortages (cartons and cups)
 | * **The substitutions list with our vendor forces us to adjust our menu. High schools are moving to a 3-week cycle menu rotation starting February 2022.**
* **Prioritizing milk to elementary school lunches only. Supporting the district with SoWashCo fundraising for providing water bottles to students.**
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| * **Committee Member Suggestions:**
 | * **Looking into available grants to fund milk and/or equipment**
* **Communicating with families on what they can do to help**
* **Would parents be willing to ease the burden of school lunches by packing lunches for their kids?**
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| * **Goals for the Committee:**

Next Meetings:Monday March 21, 2022Monday May 16, 20224:00-5:30pm  | * **Meet in Person!**
* **Bringing Youth Advisory Committee to our meetings, perform taste testing of new/available product.**
* **Kitchen tours for committee members**
* **Mental Health Trends w/ Jo Park**
* **Expand our Committee: Recruit student representatives, parents, and district staff.**
* **Farm to School Initiatives**
* **Health Teacher Spotlight**
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