

**Plymouth-Canton Community Schools**  
**Student Voice in Action Committee**  
**Monday, January 29, 2024 @ Canton High School Media Center**  
**Agenda**

**Committee Attendees:** Sara Alassi, Mohamad Alomary, Maya Alomary, Sadie Anthony, Sylvia Black, E'Leena Bullock, Jo Fessler, Evayla Georgieva, Juliet Jakubik, Lasya Jalari, Sudeeksha Jois, Emma Krupa, Aliya Kurian, Hudson Lloyd, Rohit Mahesh, Lina Mohammad, Iniya Mudaliyar, Sarah Nelson, Addison Newhouse, Joshua Patterson, Zachary Patterson, Anaya Roychoudhury, John Sadowski, Mahika Srivastava, Riley Tulgetske, Riley Zajas, Evan Zhen, Superintendent Monica Merritt, Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu, and McKenna Pierce

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu. The committee went around and introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes from December 18, 2023**

Josh Patterson asked the SVA committee to review the minutes. The minutes from December 18, 2023, were reviewed. The meeting notes from December 18, 2023, approved the minutes as amended moved by Mohamad Alomary, and seconded by Riley Tulgetske. Everyone in attendance approved the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes.

**Welcome from Co-Chairs and Review SVA Norms**

The SVA committee reviewed the new printed posters containing the committee's 2023-2024 norms.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**Nutrition Services Guest Speakers- Gina Stanford and Ann Whetstone**

Gina Stanford, Assistant Director of Nutrition Services, and Ann Whetstone, Food and Nutrition Dietician Coordinator, presented information on the middle and high school lunch menus, including the Halal menu options across the district. The Student Voice in Action Committee had questions regarding dietary restrictions. Ann Whetstone covered the various menu options that are vegan and vegetarian at both middle and high schools. There is a plan to sample Asian dumplings at the middle school level. If well-received by students, the product will be implemented in the menu rotation as early as this school year. Halal-certified menu options include chicken nuggets, hamburgers, and chicken patties. Lina Mohammad mentioned she has never seen Halal chicken patties on the school menu, even though it is written as an option. Ann Whetstone said that the menu options can occasionally vary from school to school and are based on availability from the food seller. John Sadowski asked if the food managers at the school level can make executive decisions based on menu items since there was a change to the menu item recently. Ann Whetstone said that due to supply chain issues, it is possible that last-minute changes have to be made, but the decision has to be approved by Nutrition Services. After viewing the middle school menu, the high school vegan and vegetarian options were discussed. Ann Whetstone encouraged

students to go onto the P-CCS website page called “[Nutrislice](#)” to view all menu options. This portal offers a filter where you can narrow menu options by food restrictions, dietary preferences, and allergies. It was mentioned that due to free lunches, there are longer lines for hot lunches; this leads to many vegetarian options or other dietary restrictions that are already gone by the time students reach the front of the line. Josh Patterson said that he often has to grab a salad for a friend who is vegetarian so they can get a vegetarian option for lunch due to limited availability.

Josh Patterson suggested creating a Google Form where students can request Halal lunch options each day to ensure the Halal options will be ready for lunch. It was asked why certain foods are repeatedly selling out without increasing the supply. Using the QR code method could be beneficial to increasing the chance of students getting their ideal lunch, while also decreasing food waste. At the elementary school level, students pick their lunches ahead of time to ensure enough food is prepared for the students. This could be implemented at the middle and high school levels as well, or at least for students with various food restrictions.

There was a question about how students with food allergies are supported. There is a “Special Diet Statement Form” that needs to be filled out by a medical professional and submitted to their account. An alert will pop up on the account when checking out to keep students safe from consuming food containing allergens. Ann Whetstone covered the gluten-free options for both breakfast and lunch options across the school district. The nurses can work with families to ensure that the “Special Diet Statement Form” is filled out and submitted. Students mention that more families and students need to know about this form. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs said that the Student and Family Engagement Department can include that information in our newsletter near the beginning of each school year.

Ann Whetstone showed the committee how to use the Nutrislice website along with the filters to show safe food options for students with various food preferences. Breakfast and lunch menu options are determined by allergens, dietary restrictions, food cost, and labor involved. Due to student meals being free as of the 2023-2024 school year, food staff members are producing more meals than the years before, leading to a labor shortage. Supply chain, meal plan guidelines, and student preference are also factors in choosing school menus. Options from school to school vary. The district has to provide all five food groups: protein, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and grains. Students can take three of these groups to decrease food waste and for students to choose foods they enjoy eating. There are also saturated fats, sodium, and calorie restrictions dictated at both state and national levels. Lisa Caratina, a community member, believes P-CCS should spend less money on unhealthy food options like chocolate donut holes, and more money buying more expensive fruits, vegetables, and nutritionally-dense meals. Gina Stanford said that we buy from a K-12 food wholesaler that focuses on various whole grains and nutrient-dense foods and can ensure that the guidelines are followed to a tee. It was suggested that a la carte sales can be used to buy more expensive food items.

The Food and Nutrition Services should have an assembly to share this valuable information.

Virtual Academy student, Zachary Patterson, asked how Virtual Academy students are being fed. Unfortunately, at the time, the State of Michigan grant for free meals for K-12 students only applies to students who are in brick-and-mortar buildings.

**Update on Board of Education Subcommittee:****Student Performance and Achievement**

A piano studies class. Reviewing and revising curriculum, currently revising 6th-grade algebra.

**Student Handbook: Dress Code**

Sae Pawar and Josh Patterson presented the SVA Dress Code feedback provided by the committee meeting on December 18, 2023. Students also reviewed the SVA-suggested dress codes and were encouraged to make any additional suggestions. It was suggested that bandanas should be allowed in schools. What type of Google Form survey would be most efficient and effective? During the next meeting, the SVA committee can work on a district-wide survey for all students to give feedback on the current dress code at P-CCS. It was suggested that students would benefit if every dress code rule was explained. Equitability across all schools; all dress code standards should be the same across the district.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Sae Pawar.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Monday, February 26, 2024

Monday, March 18, 2024

Monday, April 15, 2024

Monday, May 20, 2024