

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD PRESENTATION - DEPARTMENT UPDATE
Food and Nutrition Services
November 18, 2014

The Food and Nutrition Services Department Update session was duly called to order at 5 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Gunnar Paulson, Chairman; Leanetta McNealy, Vice-Chairman; Robert Hyatt, April Griffin, and Eileen Roy, Board members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; staff members; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gunnar Paulson.

Dr. Paulson had follow-up questions to ones that were answered in a recent memo from Food & Nutrition Services (See Supplementary Minutes). Dr. Paulson asked for information on the cost of installing meters in school kitchens. Mr. Ward responded and stated that he would attempt to locate additional information.

Ms. Maria Eunice, Director, Food and Nutrition Services, then conducted a presentation on the department. It included information on their Customer Base; Meals and Sales; their Redeveloped Image; an overview of the Choice Program; New concepts, equipment and approach; USDA Regulations; Summer Meal Programs; Farm-to-School Planning Grant; Community Eligibility Provision Program (CEP); Training Programs; Costs and Funding. It was noted that there is a new Supper program being piloted at Norton Elementary School.

Dr. McNealy complimented the beautiful Website and Ms. Eunice responded to her questions of how things are added to the menu, student's eating habits, and portion size. Ms. Eunice acknowledged the difficulties, noting that a new, reduced sodium level requirement may increase the challenge of providing a satisfying taste. She stated that portion sizes are the same for all students at a given level, elementary, middle and high.

Ms. Eunice commented that UF does studies for the department. She stated further that offering more items, and a variety, helps encourage students to purchase lunch rather than bring from home. Staff is well-trained, so minimal waste is produced. Composting has begun to be discussed.

Mr. Hyatt commended the whole department on the advances that have been made. He particularly noted the change that was made some time ago to increase fresh fruits and vegetables. He was also impressed with the Farm-to-School event at Lofton.

Mrs. Roy stated that Ms. Eunice has always been 'cutting edge,' improving every year.

Dr. Roberts commended Ms. Eunice and acknowledged some of the challenges that will continue to be worked on. He referred to educating students and parents, and especially noted the importance of encouraging students to drink water.

Chairman Paulson commended Ms. Eunice and Mr. Ward on an excellent presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.