



Food Fuels Learning in Action

Portland Public Schools Food Security Task Force

January 29, 2020

Agenda



- Welcome (5:30-5:45)
- Introduce Advisory Team and Leadership Team members (5:45-6)
- PPS Food Fund Update (6-6:05)
- Presentations from Food Fund Awardees: Becky Bell, Nancy Berrang (6:05-6:20)
- Action Group Updates (6:20-6:45)
- Closing Remarks from Superintendent Xavier Botana (6:45-6:50)

Food Fuels Learning Values Statement



We believe that food fuels learning and all students at Portland Public Schools have the right to nutritious food that allows them to attain their full potential.

Food Fuels Learning Mission



Our mission is to build food security in schools through comprehensive research and community-based action.

Process goals



- 1) Build food security
- 2) Community-led process
- 3) Prioritize sustainable systems change



Leadership Team Introductions



Advisory Team Introductions



Portland Public Schools Food Fund



PPS Food Fund - Building Connections

Food Fuels Learning provided direct support to all Food Fund applicants

- Class 207 Project at Lincoln Middle School connected with the School Garden Action Group and Cultivating Community for school garden resources
- The Power Station Project at Rowe Elementary School connected with the Locker Project for snack donations
- The Healthy Food and Water--Healthy Brain Project connected with Let's Go who provided free water bottles for a class at Lincoln Middle School
- The "Balanced Diet" Project connected with Cooking Matters for nutrition education classes at Deering High School
- The Family Enrichment Project connected with Wayside for Family Engagement Night meals at Riverton Elementary School

Food Fund Awardee: Friday Food Partner Program

Becky Bell, Casco Bay High School





Food Fund Awardee:

Riverton Garden Education Materials and Supplies

Project



Food Fund Awardee:

King Food Pantry Project

Nancy Berrang, King Middle School



Action Group Updates



Action Groups

Food Fuels Learning began the project by articulating goals in five program areas:

1. *Charitable food*
2. *Federal nutrition program*
3. *School gardens*
4. *Nutrition education*
5. *Sustainable practices*



Charitable Food Programs

Goal: *Ensure that all children at risk of food insecurity have access to adequate, culturally relevant, nutritious food both at school and to supplement their diet beyond school*

Charitable Foods Recommendation 1 - Enhance consistent resource-sharing within, and among, school communities

Charitable Foods Recommendation 2 - Improve the reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of charitable food programs

Charitable Foods Recommendation 3 - Encourage low-barrier access and high availability of school pantries and food options

Charitable Food Programs



Recommendation	Progress	Deadline
<p>1.1 Circulate Portland Community Food Resource Guide and Portland Summer Food Resource Guide to families and all school staff at the beginning and end of the year, respectively</p>	<p>1) Portland Community Summer Food Resource Guide is completed. Circulation will occur in paper form to all elementary schools and will be available on school and district websites</p>	<p>1) Completed/Ongoing</p>
<p>1.5 Strengthen communication and collaboration among organizational partners and liaisons managing charitable food programs</p>	<p>1) Use Food Fuels Learning website and Facebook page as platform to increase charitable foods program communication 2) Launched PPS Food Security listserv</p>	<p>1) Ongoing 2) November 2019</p>
<p>2.1 Ensure that there are adequate school liaisons (e.g., staff, volunteers) to manage the charitable food programs at the schools and to maintain adequate food supply</p>	<p>1) Complete school site visits to identify what each school charitable food program needs for support 2) Draft of expectations for school involvement has been developed 3) Designate charitable food program liaison staff position so that there is a point of contact within each school to ensure charitable food program sustainability</p>	<p>1) Two schools completed; June 2019 2) Completed April 2019 3) Ongoing</p>
<p>3.1 Partner organizations collaborate with schools that do not have an existing charitable food program to prioritize what would serve their school best</p>	<p>1) Two schools identified and charitable food programs in development</p>	<p>1) Ongoing</p>



Federal Nutrition Programs

Goal: *Increase overall school meal participation and reduce challenges for food service staff*

Federal Nutrition Programs Recommendation 1 - Increase overall student participation in federal nutrition programs

Federal Nutrition Programs Recommendation 2 - Encourage full participation of all eligible students in free and reduced-price meals

Federal Nutrition Programs Recommendation 3 - Cultivate a school culture of healthy and inclusive food practices

Federal Nutrition Programs



Recommendation	Progress	Deadline
1.1 Launch a professional school meals marketing campaign to attract more students and families	1) Interview marketing firms and solicited bids to work with PPS	1) Funding included in USDA Farm to School Grant application. Seeking other resources for this.
1.2 Collect, analyze, and incorporate student feedback on menu options through districtwide taste tests and response forms	1) Cultivating Community/Food Corps taste tests 2) Analyzing production sheet data	1) Taste testing vegan menu 19/20 school year 2) June 2020
2.2 Continue to support families completing eligibility paperwork and implement additional best practices	1) Continue with current procedures and new online system 2) Identify impact on Categorical Eligibility due to SNAP changes	1) Summer - September 2020 2) Now - October 2020
3.4 Exceed federal nutritional requirements by focusing on nutrient dense, minimally processed foods	1) Vegan chili, homemade marinara and mashed potatoes 2) Testing new breakfast items 3) Harvest of the Month Program 4) Daily Vegan Lunch option	1) Currently Serving 2) Ongoing 3) Beginning Fall 2019 4) September 2019 rolled out

School Gardens



Goal: *Assist every school in developing and maintaining a successful school garden and school garden programming*

School Gardens Recommendation 1 - Develop and implement school garden–based learning goals integrated with Common Core State Standards

School Gardens Recommendation 2 - Create a district-wide School Garden Network

School Gardens Recommendation 3 - Increase funding and infrastructure for school garden programs

School Gardens



Recommendation	Progress	Deadline
2.5 Raise awareness of and fully utilize garden-based education resources in the state	1) Hold PPS School Garden Tour in partnership with Maine School Garden Network 2) Collaborate with Lewiston School District	1) August 2019 2) ongoing
3.3 Provide stipends to school garden coordinators	1) Finalize job description 2) Advocate for funding	1) December 2019 2) May 2020
1.3 Provide all teachers with a garden curriculum formulated from existing Maine-based lessons connected to Common Core State Standards	1) Form a curriculum team to compile lessons connected to NGSS	2019-2020 school year



Nutrition Education

Goal: *Provide schools with the tools they need to coordinate staff and organizational partners working to provide nutrition education to students*

Nutrition Education Recommendation 1 - Develop a district-wide comprehensive and equitable approach to nutrition education

Nutrition Education Recommendation 2 - Designate one person to oversee nutrition education in the district, with responsibilities as follows

Nutrition Education Recommendation 3 - Prioritize and implement nutrition education in schools

Nutrition Education



Recommendation	Progress	Deadline
<p>2.1 Coordinate existing nutrition education efforts by partner organizations, eliminating redundancies and increasing reach</p>	<p>1) Curating comprehensive Nutrition Education Map with partner organizations and school staff teaching nutrition ed</p> <p>2) Updated Nutrition Survey Report</p> <p>3) Outreach to nutrition educators to provide information, resources, and opportunities in response to their survey feedback</p> <p>4) Amanda Hutchins joins FFL Leadership Team</p>	<p>1) Ongoing</p> <p>2) December 2019</p> <p>3) October & November 2019</p> <p>4) February 2020</p>
<p>3.1 Equip schools with the basic infrastructure to teach nutrition education</p>	<p>1) Let's Go and Cooking Matters have "Cooking Carts" and equipment lists available for interested schools</p> <p>2) FFL applies to Farm to School to request funds to purchase Cooking Cart</p>	<p>1) December 2019</p> <p>2) December 2019</p>
<p>3.3 Foster greater awareness of available nutrition programs, and strengthen student and family participation</p>	<p>1) Let's Go and Cooking Matters connect with Food Fund applicants who request nutrition education support</p> <p>2) Develop and distribute School Report resource to Wellness and Let's Go Champions</p> <p>3) Conversations begin around water station pilot</p>	<p>1) November & December 2019</p> <p>2) January 2020</p> <p>3) December 2019, ongoing</p>

Sustainable Practices



Goal: *Support schools in creating procurement, waste management, and other practices that minimize their environmental impact and encourage their investment in local communities*

Sustainable Practices Recommendation 1 - Develop measurable local food procurement goals for Food Services

Sustainable Practices Recommendation 2 - Follow New England Environmental Finance Center's⁵ best management practices for district-wide composting

Sustainable Practices Recommendation 3 - Institute sustainable practices in cafeteria purchases and operations

Sustainable Practices



Recommendation	Progress	Deadline
2.1 Involve custodial and lunchroom staff in trainings and discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presented and heard feedback at a head custodian meeting 2) Collecting feedback from custodians from a survey on sustainable practices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) August 2019 2) Collecting data August-February 2020
2.3 Incorporate composting into education goals, and involve students in composting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Creating a PPS Cafeteria Waste Separation Best Practices Guide 2) Working with Riverton Elementary School to improve their cafeteria waste separation system with an ecomaine grant 3) Advised King Middle School on their food waste expedition 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) September 2020 2) Ongoing; received ecomaine grant in December 2019 3) January 2020
3.3 Reduce use of single-use plastic by decreasing use of plastic straws and packaged cutlery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Worked with Rowe Elementary School to eliminate plastic cutlery in their cafeteria and replace it with reusable cutlery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implemented in September 2019

Food Fuels Learning Funding Priorities

- 1) Food Service Manager
- 2) School Garden Coaches
- 3) District Wellness Coordinator



Closing Remarks from Superintendent

Xavier Botana



Any questions?