

## Bellingham School District (BSD) Farm- to- School Advisory Group - Minutes

Meeting Date: June 10, 2010 5:30-7:00 pm

In Attendance: Mark Dalton, Chair; Rachel Akins, Bill Angel, Jamie Imus, Gail Knops, Peter LeCompte, Molli O'Neill, Laura Plaut, Lori Polevoi, Jessica Sankey, Mardi Solomon

### Welcome and Introductions –

1. Mardi Solomon welcomed the group and stated the main purposes of this session: to start getting to know one another, to gain a shared understanding of the purpose and function of this Advisory Group, and to review basic logistics regarding meeting schedule and communications.
2. The group was welcomed to the first BSD Farm to School Advisory Group by Mark Dalton, Chair and BSD Food Service Director, gave as well as a brief history & background of what lead this group to be formed by parent/ community organizers Mardi Solomon, Rachel Akins & Jessica Sankey.
3. Each new member in attendance introduced him/herself and gave a brief (and passionate!) reason for wanting to join this advisory group.

### Overview: Background & Purpose of the group

1. Mardi Solomon gave a general framework for the structure of meetings and that this advisory group's goal is to focus on how to change/support the Bellingham School District Food Service Director to provide more healthy and local foods in the breakfast and lunch programs.
2. Mark Dalton gave an overview of the school food service budget and areas that the group may focus on to purchase more healthy /local foods. This also began to introduce the group to some of the challenges of fitting this type of food into the budget.
3. Mark's goal is to increase purchases of healthy local foods by 5% over the next year.
4. Peter LeCompte suggested that it may be helpful to coordinate a waste study prior to making major changes to help identify items that are poorly accepted and are making their way into the garbage instead of being eaten.
5. Mardi reviewed the goals of the group and plan of work as outlined in the Farm to School Farm-to-school Advisory group template:  
<http://bellingshamschools.org/sites/default/files/departments/foodservices/documents/FarmtoSchoolCharter.pdf>

### Sharing Ideas and Prioritizing Activities

1. Attendees had time to write their names under five areas of interest: under "fundraising/grant writing," "sustainable funding" "local procurement," "education & outreach/promotion," "school district policy," and for a special project "Taste WA Day," which will be happening on Sept. 29. Opportunity was also given for participants to write in ideas under each topic. These will be compiled and shared with the group at an upcoming meeting.

### Next Steps: Communication and Meeting Schedule

1. Meeting plans: monthly meetings.
2. Respond to the Doodle meeting request if you have time/day preferences.
3. Email will be the main way information is communicated between meetings. Meeting minutes and group documents also will be posted on the BSD Advisory Group webpage.

Next Meeting: July 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30pm

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Minutes submitted by Rachel Akins