



February 9th - Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Roxanne Meyers
Trudy McKanna
Beth Herrema
Suzie Christensen
Jenn Evans
Troy Wolf

Introduction of members - Each member present introduced themselves and described their child's or their own food allergies.

Lending Library - We have a few books sent to us from FAAN and Linda Coss (an author and food allergy advocate). Some are cookbooks and some about learning to live well with FA. We will bring these books to each meeting and members can "check them out" and return at the next meeting.

Food Allergy Policy - Gave an overview of the policy adopted by the RPS school board on Jan. 24th. A copy of the policy is attached to the email containing these notes. Jamie Hosford has committed to having the policy implemented by March 1 and has already contacted me about meeting with the Principals at each school in an effort to train them on the policy. RFAN has purchased the School Food Allergy Program training package to use for this process.

Kindergarten Round-up - Discussed our need to be a presence at the round ups for each school. Valley View and Roguewood are already familiar with us, but the other schools are not necessarily aware of our support group. Within the next few weeks, an effort will be made to approach each school individually and request that our group's info be available at their round up. Round ups are usually conducted in April.

Food Drive - Valley View is currently conducting a food drive to help stock the special diet food pantry division of Feeding West Michigan. Last week it was started, but, not communicated well, so, it's been extended to this week and will end Friday, Feb. 18th.

School Lunch - The RPS Food Service Director completed the allergen spreadsheet to compliment the school lunch program and it is now listed under the Food Service tab of the RPS website. Our group now has a link under the Allergy Information tab. If you click on our logo it is a link to our website.

Legislation - Trudy and Roxanne are meeting with Rep. Peter MacGregor at the Cannon Township Hall on Fri. Feb. 11th to discuss Senate Bill 233, which would require schools to have written food allergy policies. We will provide more information about that meeting at our next group meeting in March.

Restaurant Education - FAAN has developed food service training videos which can be purchased and used to train restaurant staff. We discussed purchasing this video and using it like a lending library for local restaurants to “sign out” and use for training their staff. Suzie Christensen has some great ideas for fundraising to purchase the video and more info on that will follow.

Strategic Planning Survey - We briefly discussed the purpose of this survey as a means to determine whether the group will pursue the idea of becoming an official non-profit organization. In the meantime, we are also looking into whether we could become an affiliate of FAAN and use their resources for liability protection and grants.

Meetings - Do to the amount of projects we want to tackle, are more frequent meetings necessary? Discussed possibility of every other week and also changing the day to Wednesday to accommodate more members. We will pursue this question further, however, it was discussed that this meeting contained so much information partially due to the fact there had not been a meeting since November. We will work on prioritizing and providing agendas in advance to help streamline the meetings.

Our next meeting scheduled will be communicated in a future email due to the open issue of changing the meeting day to Wednesday.