



March 2nd - Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Roxanne Meyers
Lisa Prost
Beth Meyers
Jennifer Evans
Troy Wolf
Lisa Bostwick
Amy Topp

Introduction of members - each member introduced themselves and their own or their child's allergies. This was the first meeting for new members, Lisa Bostwick and Amy Topp.

Lending Library - Books and a sign-out sheet was made available for members. Also, we went through the slide presentation for educational/training purposes that was produced by FAAN and purchased by RFAN for all members to use in whatever training situation they need (ie; schools, churches, daycares, etc.).

Committee updates:

Food Allergy Policy - The policy was adopted by the school board and a training session with all the district principals is scheduled for 3/14. Liz Loker and Roxanne Meyers will be present at the training session. Additionally, we have been sharing the policy with other people, as requested, to use as an example for their own districts (ie; Big Rapids, Caledonia, Temcumseh). Roxanne is also meeting with Nurse Linda on 3/9 to show her the training materials we have accumulated to possibly incorporate into the teacher's in-service training this summer.

School Lunch Allergen Grid - The spreadsheet was completed by the RPS Food Service Director, John Henry, and is included on the RPS website under the Food Service tab. The goal of this committee is now completed.

Community Outreach - A food drive was completed at Valley View to fill a request from the Feeding West Michigan Special Diet Food Pantry. The donation was delivered to Saffrons to be picked up by the food pantry. This committee's work now needs to concentrate on spreading the awareness of our group within

the Rockford area, so, more families can be aware of our group as a resource. Recently, I was made aware that there are kids within the district who do not have Epi-pens due to cost factors. I am researching this right now to get the details and then we will consider adding that as a task of this committee. As a resource for food allergies in our community we will find a way to make sure any child who needs life-saving medication can have it made available to them.

Legislation - Due to the current political climate, we are putting this project on hold until it looks like our efforts would be the most effective. Until that time, we are going to approach the Michigan Association of School Boards to present the idea that they suggest to all the school boards of the State that written food allergy guidelines be established. This takes the legislative "requirements" out of the way and ultimately could help to achieve our goal of promoting food allergy awareness and education across the State.

In regard to committees, we also discussed future committees being headed by a member of the group, with involvement from the group leader (Roxanne), but more ownership of the project by the committee members will promote more involvement among group members. The newest committee which has been formed is an example of that: **Summer Family Event** - This committee is headed by member, Tara Lafferty. Updates will be provided for that committee in the upcoming months.

Monthly Meetings - We will start scheduling speakers for our monthly meetings. The focus of the meeting will be educational and there can be breakout portions of the meetings for committee issues before or after the main meeting. The first scheduled speakers we have are for the May meeting where we have confirmed, Linda Rothenthaler, RN - the district nurse for Rockford. We have also requested our medical advisor, Dr. Dubravec attend that meeting.

Open discussion - The meeting was ended after having a discussion about various questions members had regarding their own personal experiences and sharing ideas/ thoughts by other members. This is an important part of our meetings and one that should happen at the end of each meeting. We all have different experiences and one of our greatest strengths is that we have the ability to share them and learn from each other.

The next scheduled monthly meeting is Wed, April 13th at 7:00pm.