

Rockford Food Allergy Network



Allergy Aware School

September 7th – Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Beth Meyers
Beth Herrema
Trudy McKanna
Tara Lafferty
Roxanne Meyers

1. Passed out meeting schedule for the upcoming school year (see below). If anyone has a conflict with Tuesdays on a regular basis, we can revise the calendar so everyone has a chance to attend the meetings. Please contact Roxanne if you have any conflicts.
2. Valley View Open House. We discussed while there were positive responses to the open house from parents, there was still a separation from the kids with allergies and everyone else. We decided we would offer to get all the treats for the school at future open houses and/or school-wide events. This way, we can get a treat that will be Nut-free and possibly, Gluten, Milk and Egg free as well. This is something we can discuss with Saffrons to see if we can coordinate a good allergen-free treat. I contacted the VV PTO president to discuss this option and she said it would be great if we handled all treats. This is something we will need to coordinate with more of our members and hopefully also use for the other schools as well. Tara mentioned that Meadowridge used an allergen-free treat at their Carnival last year in order to include all kids. Yeah – Meadowridge!
3. Brochures – Discussed them and how they could be improved with statistics, ect. They could be much more informative and educational as

well as being used to spread the word about our network. Roxanne is going to look into getting approved for a grant that will help fund this project.

4. Allergy cards/dining cards – Beth Herrema and Roxanne both had examples of the cards we've made up for our kids to be used at school. We also had dining cards made on Vistaprint.com. If anyone is interested in getting any of those cards, contact Roxanne – there is a large supply of them.
5. Meeting with Linda Rothenthaler and Jamie Hosford. Roxanne has emailed them to ask why we haven't heard about our meeting with them being rescheduled yet. Nurse Linda replied they needed two more weeks and we would hear something. If we don't at that time, we'll go back to Dr. Kelley to follow-up.
6. Back to school issues – discussed what each of us did this year to prepare. Shared the letter from Nurse Linda to parents with everyone and also the snack list. Discussed how we are all still working individually on this and how we can work together to get ideas from each other to benefit everyone. If there's anything special you're doing in your child's class this year or with the school in general, please consider sharing it with the group. Not everyone would use all the ideas, but, any information is helpful – especially to the new parents just starting out with the school experience.
7. List of problem areas: It was brought up that the principal at Valley View questioned one of our member's statistics for food allergies which in turn gave the impression of dismissing it as just her problem. We discussed the challenges faced on that first day particularly for this principal and that he may not have been in the right state of mind to have that discussion. Also, follow-up with an email to Nurse Linda, Jamie Hosford and Mr. Seigel with documentation that shows current stats and information. Received very nice email response from Mr. Seigel apologizing that he was surprised by the statistics and thanking us for the information. He really does try hard in the best interest of our kids and is appreciative of times when we can share information with him. We

discussed by email this summer the need to keep a list of “incidences” which occur throughout the school year so we can show these to the school as reasons for why strict procedures need to be implemented. Many times these issues are handled at the teacher level and never make it to the principal, school nurse or district leaders. Please let us know if you have any issues. Please remember, you are not getting your teacher in trouble, you are merely helping to make the school safer not only for your child, but all those to follow.

2010 Meeting Schedule

Date	Time/Place
September 7 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
October 5 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
November 9 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
December 7 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford

2011 Meetings

Date	Time/Place
January 4 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
February 1 st	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
March 1 st	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
April 5 th	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford
May 3 rd	7:00pm – Arnies in Rockford