

Summary of THIRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

The February Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. on February 16, 2022.

Special Guest

Lena Wilson, Assistant Commissioner of the Food and Nutrition division of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), shared the following information:

- Supply Chain funding is available. All that is needed is to complete the attestation form. For the standard of meeting minimally processed foods, the easiest to use is milk and produce. Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables can also be used. We will need to show invoices of spending.
- USDA transitional regulations on the meal pattern are being considered. It appears that we will still be able to use flavored milk. Whole grains will be most likely need be 80% of items used. Tier three levels of sodium are more controversial. After one year, sodium may have to decrease by an additional 10%. Cooking by scratch is the recommended method to reach these levels. We should share our opinions with USDA.
- TDA is in the process of changing software on TXUNPS. This will enable districts to directly see USDA products when ordering, moving, processing, and shipping occur.
- A recipe grant was also given to develop more scratch recipes that meet the meal pattern.
- P-EBT will be giving funds per child for COVID related absences of five days or more. Payments should go out in March.
- Reviews are continuing. Meal pattern is the top finding such as meeting the minimum quantities. Adult pricing not high enough was a problem in 31% of districts. The wellness policy not updated was a finding in 25% of districts. Only 8% have had zero findings. Procurement is still a challenge. The main thing is to be sure that the procedures are well documented and that bids are being evaluated properly. Funds cannot support sports or other educational activities. This was a finding in 15% of districts.
- For planning budgets, it is highly unlikely that USDA will continue SSO for next school year. USDA wants the meal program to return to normal. USDA gave Emergency funding last summer, higher SFSP reimbursements for meals this year, and now the Supply Chain grant. They believe that districts should be ready to move forward.

Approve Summary of Electronic Votes

There were none to be approved.

Treasurer's Report

The financial statement was given by Secretary/Treasurer, Susan D'Amico.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Karen Andrasi, reported that 154 people are registered for PCS and 204 booths have been sold for summer conference.

Chair of Area Representative's Report

Chair of Area Representative's, Michelle Skiles, stated that they have been sending out lots of emails and keeping in contact with other districts. We have a new Board member, Joy Peters, who is the Area 7 representative.

Reports of Standing Committees

Lacy Willey brought forth two motions:

- The new Certification structure should be adopted to begin July 1, 2022. It will result in simplification of membership and certification requirements.
- Remove the Level 3 certification requirement for attendance in Train the Trainer class. This will increase participation and possibly revenue for TASN.

Reports of Other Committees

Industry Committee Chair Mary Ellen Cote stated that the committee met yesterday to plan the industry event for the summer conference.

Chair of Membership Committee, John Ceballos, shared that a combined area representative and membership committee meeting was held yesterday. They discussed the desire to hear from members and determine their needs. A survey will be used at conference to gather this information.

Chair of Organizational Affairs Committee, Melissa Bryan, stated that her committee met yesterday. As a result, Melissa Bryan brought forth three motions:

- The Standards of Excellence be removed from the bylaws due to being outdated.
- The Standards of Excellence be changed to a lifetime achievement award so that it may be phased out.
- The Strategic Planning session bylaws be moved to the TASN PPM to increase member influence.

Chair of Public Policy and Legislation Committee, Maggie Mae Kennedy, shared that the LAC meeting is taking place in a few weeks. Many of the legislative meetings will be in person not virtual.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Auditor Presentation by Gindler, Chappell, Morrison, & Company

Years ending August 31, 2020 and August 31, 2021 were audited. All transactions flowed through accounting. There were no material or significant weaknesses.

TASN Strategic Plan

Doug Massey gave an overview of the Strategic Plan. About a dozen individuals met for a day and a half in November and were led by an outside group. Board members, industry members, and committee members were present to make the plan. A draft will be presented before the June meeting so that the members can be familiar with the Strategic Plan before the vote.

New Motions

The Board unanimously passed the motions brought forth from the Education Committee and the Organizational Affairs Committee. The changes to the Standards of Excellence are contingent on them passing at the Annual Meeting to be held June 27, 2022.

Announcements

- TASN voting, March 1-30, 2022
- Partnership Collaboration Summit, February 16-18, 2022, Austin, Texas
- TASN Annual Conference, June 26-28, 2022, Fort Worth, Texas

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan D'Amico
TASN Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2022