

KURZMAN ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

CRARY CAMPUS

BUSINESS SERVICES
501 N. Cass Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48328-2307
www.waterford.k12.mi.us

PHONE: (248) 682-7800
Fax: (248) 706-4889



October 5, 2012

The Honorable Kevin W. Concannon
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, USDA
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Suite 216 E Whitten Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-0106

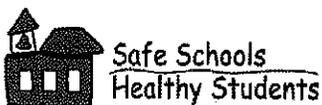
Dear Under Secretary Kevin Concannon:

On June 4, 1946 Harry S. Truman signed the National School Lunch Act as a means to ensure National Security. One third of our men were determined unfit to defend our nation due to poor nutrition. In our present era, our nation is again facing concerns about the health of our youngsters as we battle the prevalence of obesity in the U.S.A. along with the many health related issues that this causes.

In preparation of the release of the new meal regulations that are a proponent of Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act, the USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) opened the doors of communication with our child nutrition teams. Our comments were solicited to ensure that our voice was heard on the challenges of revising the meal regulations. USDA officials visited schools throughout our country, Waterford Village being one, to gather input not only from the food service experts, but also from students, parents, school staff and community members to ensure the success of the roll out of the regulations. Many programs, such as USDA and Michigan Team Nutrition, provided support in anticipation of the transition in our meal programs with programs such as the HealthierUS School Challenge, a host of grant opportunities and a vast array of support materials.

Waterford School District Food and Nutrition Services began applying for grants to prepare our community and school district for the necessary raise in the standards of the school meal regulations. We begin improving our menus with the addition of more whole grains, more fruit and vegetables and a greater selection of fresh produce. We held numerous taste tests to solicit feedback from our students to ensure their satisfaction with the menu modifications. We worked with the School Nutrition Association to lobby with our vendors to produce healthier food items for our menus that lowered saturated fats, eliminated trans-fats, and lowered calories and sodium while still keeping those foods kid-friendly. We received support from programs such as Fuel up to Play60, Action for Health Kids, Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry, Blue Cross and Blue Shield® and Hidden Valley Ranch Love Your Veggies® as we crusaded to effect the healthy transformation.

Results of these collaborative efforts of those dedicated to child nutrition are best expressed by the students themselves. Gabrielle Jenish, an 8th grader at Pierce Middle School was asked how she felt about the changes of the new meal standards. Her response was, "It means a lot to us to make our school healthier and everyone to have healthier minds and be better in school."



As Waterford continues this year to further the improvements in our school meal program with the implementation of the new meal standards, we are grateful for the expert preparation that our USDA Food and Nutrition Services performed. By nature, reformation often creates a feeling of uncertainty and we are thankful that along with the USDA FNS department we have great support from our Michigan Department of Education Nutrition experts to guide us through. "Inspire, educate and empower our students for their future!" is our Waterford School District Vision Statement and none of those attributes allow for immobility. As the late great Henry Ford said, "If I had asked my customers what they wanted they would have said a faster horse". We support the good sense decisions that our USDA FNS has made to ensure a healthy future for our student body and academic achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doreen Simonds". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Doreen Simonds
Waterford School District
Associate Director of Nutrition Services