



BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

June 15, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Board of Education is considering changes to Policy and Regulation 5141.25, titled Students with Special Health Care Needs, Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs (Food Allergy Management). This combined policy and regulation has come under review recently as a result of concerns raised by parents regarding food allergies and the combined efforts of parents and school personnel in the management of those allergies in the school environment. In addition, the Bethany Community School Wellness Committee, Betsy Quitko our school nurse and our medical advisor have all contributed ideas and made recommendations regarding the policy in an effort to ensure a healthy learning environment for all students. The emphasis of this policy is student health and safety particularly as it relates to managing food allergies. A section of the proposed regulation (pages are lettered rather than numbered), Regulation 5141.25(b), Section 10 calls for the elimination of food items used for in-school celebrations such as birthdays, holiday parties, developmental milestones and student accomplishments. This section was drafted with the intent of keeping students safe since it is impossible to monitor food items that are prepared in individual homes and then brought into school. The Board has been made aware of the fact that this section of the regulation in particular may have some unintended consequences if enacted in its current form. The Board is seeking input from parents and staff regarding the following: 1) What school related activities would be effected? 2) In what way would the activities be effected? The Board is also interested in ideas that would help to achieve the main purpose of the policy, ensuring student health and safety, and at the same time minimize any unintended negative consequences, specifically related to the section noted above.

A draft of the policy and regulation will be available on the school website. New or proposed language appears in ***bold italics*** while proposed deletions appear in ~~strikethrough~~. I urge you to read the policy and regulation in its entirety and keep in mind that this policy and regulation is about student health and safety first and foremost. Interested parents and staff members can submit their reactions, concerns, comments, ideas and suggestions directly to Rob Spino at rspino@bethany-ed.org. Rob will funnel the responses back to the Wellness Committee and the Board Policy Committee for further review.

Thank you for taking the time to review this policy and for sharing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Connellan

Timothy F. Connellan, Superintendent