

TO: Belmont School Committee

FROM: Dustin O'Brien, Food Service Director

DATE: June 12th, 2020

SUBJECT: Summer Feeding Funding

During school closure, the Food Services Department has offered free weekly meal kits for families via curbside pickup and doorstep delivery to over 120 families. The last planned day for this service was June 17th as the food service operation traditionally ends with the last day of school. These are not traditional times.

On Wednesday, June 10th, the USDA approved a waiver, SSO (Seamless Summer Option), extending funding to all non-area eligible districts (includes Belmont). This allows the continuation of food service to our students through **August 31st, 2020**. The funding for SSO will cover all costs associated with food, supplies and labor and **bear no financial burden to the school's operating budget**. This service will be run by Dustin O'Brien (Food Service Director), Gail Mulani (Assistant Food Service Director), Melissa Moran (CMS Head Cook), Teresa Vidette (BHS Head Cook) and multiple community volunteers.

Below is an outline of the operational plan for Summer 2020

- Change the prep site from **BHS** to **Chenery Middle School or Wellington** (due to HS construction)
- Continue to offer service on a meal pickup and delivery basis one day per week
- Enlist volunteers to continue prep and home delivery efforts
- **NOTE:** Past donors have expressed interest in continuing to help (Belmont Dines, Simon W. Robinson Lodge in Lexington)

We are excited to offer this service and grateful for the outpouring of support received from Belmont Schools and the entire community. A very special thank you to the amazing volunteers and food service staff who have risen to the occasion.

Sincerely,

Dustin O'Brien
Food Service Director
Belmont Public Schools

If needed, below is a clip from DESE's memo on June 10th, 2020.

"We are pleased to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released a nationwide waiver that allows School Food Authorities (SFAs) and approved community organizations to continue to provide meals at no charge to all children and teens at non-area eligible schools and community sites, where less than fifty (50) percent of participants are eligible for free or reduced-price meals (Non-Area Eligible), through the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Specifically, this extends the existing waiver of area eligibility requirements for SSO and SFSP sites through August 31, 2020 and allows all interested school districts to serve meals and receive USDA reimbursement during the summer.”