

Re: Grant

Brotherton, Brian C

Wed 2/7/2024 10:18 AM

Sent Items

To: Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>; Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>;

Hi Matt, Robert, and Erin,

1) Do you have data on how much more the plastic is costing food services than the biodegradable trays? Like I said yesterday, the plastic is costing \$175.32 more a week, which is \$701.28 a month, or \$7012.80 a year. Catoctin high is only 1.6% of the county (750/47000), so if we assume the cost increase we are seeing is proportional across the entire county, that is \$438,000 (7012.8/0.016). That is money that potentially could be spent feeding students who currently aren't getting to eat.

2) The students and custodial staff aren't looking to replace one type of plastic with another. Like we discussed yesterday, recycling is not an efficient means of dealing with waste. Only around 5% of plastic ends up actually being recycled. Even if you switch to a 1 or 2, and 100% of those are recycled, you are still using a product that is reliant on fossil fuels to produce in the first place. There has to be a sustainable option to replace the plastic.

3) The current packaging has also increased food waste. This is especially a problem in our school since $\frac{1}{3}$ of the students are FARM and there are many more who would qualify but their parents haven't filled out the form, or they don't want people in our small community to know their financial status.

I mentioned this yesterday, but just as a reminder, the students are organizing with students from other schools, this isn't something that is going to go away. We need a solution that makes financial sense and is good for people and the planet.

Brian Brotherton
Science Department Chair
Conservation Club Advisor
Catoctin High School
240-236-8157

"To the wise, the whole earth is open, because the true country of the soul is the entire universe." -Democritus

From: Young, Matthew T
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:17:53 AM
To: Brotherton, Brian C; Poster, Erin M; Kelly, Robert D
Subject: RE: Grant

Good Morning Brian,

Just wanted to follow up with our meeting yesterday. If there is any information that you'll need that's more accurate, please reach out to us first so we can supply that data. I also wanted to let you know, that our procurement coordinator has

reached out to our vendor in regards to obtaining more information about the containers using the #1 and #2 recycling products and being proactive.

Matthew T. Young
Supervisor of Operations
Food & Nutrition Services
Frederick County Public Schools
301-644-5064 (O)

From: Brotherton, Brian C <Brian.Brotherton@fcps.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>; Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>
Subject: Re: Grant

Tuesday at 10am works for me.

Brian Brotherton
Science Department Chair
Conservation Club Advisor
Catoclin High School
240-236-8157

"To the wise, the whole earth is open, because the true country of the soul is the entire universe." -Democritus

From: Young, Matthew T
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 3:00:08 PM
To: Brotherton, Brian C; Poster, Erin M; Kelly, Robert D
Subject: RE: Grant

Brian,

Could we do a virtual meeting next Tuesday at 10 AM? I can send a google meet to include Erin and myself.

Matthew T. Young
Supervisor of Operations
Food & Nutrition Services
Frederick County Public Schools
301-644-5064 (O)

From: Brotherton, Brian C <Brian.Brotherton@fcps.org>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>; Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>
Subject: Re: Grant

Hi Matt,

Sorry I missed you yesterday. I wasn't in the building because I was doing the Polar Plunge with our learning for life students.

I'd be happy to meet and discuss this further. My planning block is 2nd, so I am free from 9:00am until 10:20 am.

I think I am free most days next week as of now. Thanks.

Brian Brotherton
Science Department Chair
Conservation Club Advisor
Catoctin High School
240-236-8157

"To the wise, the whole earth is open, because the true country of the soul is the entire universe." -Democritus

From: Young, Matthew T
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 3:20:21 PM
To: Brotherton, Brian C; Poster, Erin M; Kelly, Robert D
Subject: RE: Grant

Brian,

Just tried giving you a call and I sent you an email earlier as well.

Erin and I would like to setup a meeting with you tomorrow to discuss where you got this information so we can come to a conclusion.

Thank you,

Matthew T. Young
Supervisor of Operations
Food & Nutrition Services
Frederick County Public Schools
301-644-5064 (O)



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From: Brotherton, Brian C <Brian.Brotherton@fcps.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Shorb, Rebecca L <Rebecca.Shorb@fcps.org>; Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>; Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>; Sichert, Jessica S <Jessica.Sichert@fcps.org>
Subject: Re: Grant

Hello Mathew,

Why have the 5 compartment biodegradable trays Rebecca mentioned been replaced by the plastic clamshell packaging? They aren't just being used for hot grab and go items, they are being used to serve all of the food now.

None of the food is being served on the trays anymore. This also isn't a Catoctin only problem, other schools have been forced to switch to the plastic from the trays too.

This change is also wasting \$7012 a year because the plastic is more expensive than the biodegradable trays. That is at Catoctin alone. Catoctin is only 1.6% of FCPS, which means you are throwing \$438,300 directly into the trash.

The students want an explanation.

They are working really hard to change the culture of our school and are thinking long-term. Please explain how something that costs twice as much, and only has 10 minutes of use, then it becomes trash for 1000 years, and it adds additional carbon to the atmosphere for another 100,000 years is a good idea?

The students want an explanation, our custodial staff wants an explanation. It doesn't make sense.

Brian Brotherton
Science Department Chair
Conservation Club Advisor
Catoctin High School
240-236-8157

"To the wise, the whole earth is open, because the true country of the soul is the entire universe." -Democritus

From: Shorb, Rebecca L
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:47:44 AM
To: Young, Matthew T; Brotherton, Brian C; Poster, Erin M; Kelly, Robert D; Sichert, Jessica S
Subject: RE: Grant

Brian is referring to our 5 compartment biodegradable trays that we were using on the regular line daily. We used about 220-250 of them a day so the program was going to benefit very well from recycling our trays.

From: Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Brotherton, Brian C <Brian.Brotherton@fcps.org>; Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>; Sichert, Jessica S <Jessica.Sichert@fcps.org>
Cc: Shorb, Rebecca L <Rebecca.Shorb@fcps.org>
Subject: RE: Grant

Good Morning Brian,

Thank you for reaching out. I personally didn't know that CHS applied for the \$3000 grant. In regards to using the clamshell packaging, that is only used for our hot merchandizer grab and go section. For as long as I've been here, we've never had a compostable clamshell package.

The only time we typically use compostable trays is when kids are walking through the kitchen lines and for their meals being supplied that way.

Matthew T. Young
Supervisor of Operations
Food & Nutrition Services
Frederick County Public Schools
301-644-5064 (O)



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From: Brotherton, Brian C <Brian.Brotherton@fcps.org>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 12:34 PM
To: Poster, Erin M <Erin.Poster@fcps.org>; Young, Matthew T <Matthew.Young@fcps.org>; Kelly, Robert D <Robert.Kelly@fcps.org>; Sichert, Jessica S <Jessica.Sichert@fcps.org>
Cc: Shorb, Rebecca L <Rebecca.Shorb@fcps.org>
Subject: Re: Grant

Hello Erin,

My students and I recently applied for a \$3000 grant to help initiate a composting program at our school. Our budget didn't include money for compostable trays because FCPS was already using compostable trays.

A few days after we submitted our grant application a switch was made to clamshell packaging. The implementation of composting was also going to help us achieve green schools status this year as well, but this change is a huge step backwards. My students and many others in our building are wondering why this change was made?

Not only has this increased food waste because condensation now rains down on the food, it has doubled the volume of trash in our cafeteria because clamshell is not recyclable or compostable. Additionally, the packaging costs twice what the biodegradable trays cost. In our school alone this change will increase costs \$7000 a year. Using plastic is also increasing reliance on fossil fuels to produce the plastic in the first place. Our custodial staff is now spending more man hours taking out trash during lunch shifts.

From the student perspective this change doesn't make financial sense and it is working against their sustainability goals.

Thanks for reaching out and hearing our students' concerns.

Brian Brotherton
Science Department Chair
Conservation Club Advisor
Catocin High School
240-236-8157

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From: Poster, Erin M
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:40:36 AM
To: Brotherton, Brian C
Cc: Shorb, Rebecca L; Young, Matthew T
Subject: Grant

Good morning Mr. Brotherton,

Rebecca informed me this morning you were in search for someone that could help answer questions about the biodegradable trays we were using in the cafeteria and a grant you've recently received. I got in touch with my Supervisor, Matthew Young. Matt would like for you to email him about your situation and to copy Robert (Bob) Kelly and Jessica Sichert on that email as well. Thanks for reaching out, let me know if I can help assist with anything else.

Erin Poster

Specialist 1 Monocacy & Catoclin Region

Food & Nutrition Services

Frederick County Public Schools

Mobile: 240-741-2588



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