

POTTER-DIX PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Developing Productive and Responsible Citizens

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Dear Parents,

Last Thursday, October 10, the Potter site kitchen served chili as its main course for lunch. Included in the meat for the chili was kangaroo meat that was mixed with beef. When I found out that this had happened, I discussed this with the head cook, Kevin Frei, and he said he added the kangaroo meat because of its nutritional value because it is a very lean meat. After our discussion, Mr. Frei did provide me with nutritional information, some of which I have included in this mailing.

On Tuesday, October 16, I was in contact with Shawn Vondracek of the Nutrition Services office of the Nebraska Department of Education. I explained to her the discussion I had with Mr. Frei, and she relayed to me the discussion she, too, had with Mr. Frei. Ms. Vondracek did ask Kevin to get to her some information, which he promptly did.

Here are my thoughts on this situation:

1. If a family wants to eat exotic foods, they can do so on their own time – not at school.
2. **If**, we were to have food or ingredients that are out of the ordinary, they should be listed on the menu so that the students and families are aware of what they would be being served.
3. We will no way be serving food of this nature again. Period.

This is a matter that I am taking very seriously. I do not think that kangaroo meat is unhealthy or dangerous. It has to meet USDA standards in order for companies to sell it. But, it is without a doubt not a normal staple of our diet and will not, nor will any other non-staple foods, be a part of the Potter-Dix meal program. On behalf of Potter-Dix Public Schools, I apologize for the anxiety and any harm that this has caused individual students and/or families. We will make sure that something like this never occurs again.

Sincerely,

Mike Williams
Superintendent