

## Cooperative Food Service Purchasing Agreement through the Iowa Education Consortium

### **Background:**

The Area Education Agencies of Iowa have created the Iowa Educators Consortium (IEC). Among its division is the Cooperative Food Purchasing Program. The IEC contracts with Martin Bros. who supply food wholesale to a vast number of public schools across Iowa. By buying in such large quantities, schools see a savings in the cost of their food for their school breakfast and lunch programs.

Belmond-Klemme has been a member of the IEC and the Cooperative Food Purchasing Program for many years and believes there is great benefit in continued participation.

### **Options and/or Alternatives:**

The drawback to signing a contract with the Cooperative Food Purchasing Program is that it limits the quality and variety of food available. However, schools still retain the option to buy from other vendors as long as the majority of their purchases are made through the IEC.

### **Recommended Action:**

I recommend the board move to renew its Cooperative Food Service Purchasing Agreement with the IEC for the upcoming school year.