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December 2025 Discussion of Service Provider Contracts:

Each year, the administration makes recommendations to the Board of Education regarding our major contracts, namely:

- Student transportation services with First Student,
- Cleaning services with ABM (formerly GCA),
- Food services with Quest Food Management Services, and
- Audit services with Lauterbach & Amen

Student Transportation

First Student has provided student transportation services to Pleasantdale since being awarded the contract in 2008. After a series of extensions, we have entered into a new five-year agreement beginning with the 2025–2026 school year. Pleasantdale remains a desirable district for drivers, and we're pleased that many have returned again this year. We are also working with a new branch manager and have had a positive experience thus far. The new contract includes a cap on the 2026–2027 rate increase, limiting it to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with annual rates typically approved each May or June.

Cleaning

ABM, (formerly GCA), has provided excellent service cleaning our schools in the evenings at competitive rates for more than 20 years. Barring significant service changes, the administration will recommend continuing with the same cleaning service for the 2026-2027 school year. We expect to know the 2026-2027 rates by May of 2026.

Food Service

Quest Food Management Services began providing food service last year after earning the contract through our open bid process. Now in the second year of a three-year agreement—with the option for annual renewals thereafter—Quest continues to refine its offerings based on student input, working to balance nutritious choices with meals students enjoy. Student Food Committees at each school are helping guide ongoing feedback and menu development. We look forward to continued progress in delivering high-quality, affordable lunches for all students.

Auditing Services

Lauterbach & Amen became the district's auditor through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process in spring 2025. We entered into a three-year agreement, with the option to extend annually thereafter. They recently completed the audit, and we expect to review the results at the January Board of Education meeting. The audit process was consistent with prior years, including a few recommendations for minor updates to existing practices. Overall, the experience was timely, professional, and supportive of the district and our staff.