



710 17th St. SW, Faribault, MN 55021

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FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY MEMORANDUM

Date: May 16, 2022

To: Finance Committee

From: Scott Gerdes, Director of Finance and Operations

RE: Approval of the FSMC

Please consider the approval of a new contract for Sodexo America LLC, as our FSMC for fiscal year 2022-2023. In December of 2021, I started work on the process (see attached), as defined by MDE, to complete the RFP process for a new contract for our FSMC. This process is required to take place every five years. In developing an RFP, the team went through all the areas that are important to the District, defined each of the areas, and weighted them based on the importance to the District. After the last couple of years, this process became a little more strategic based on what we have learned through the pandemic.

It quickly became clear when working together with Sodexo during the pandemic that there was a tremendous need, when our students were not in school, to be out in the community delivering meals to our students when they could not get to us.

To begin to make this even possible, in 2021, Faribault Public Schools applied for and was lucky to receive a grant from No Kids Hungry with funds that have enabled us to purchase a van and send food out to our students in need. The van is an amazing tool that enables us to deliver meals off site, but we quickly realized that if we were going to do this right and reduce food insecurity in our community, we needed a full time person to drive not only the van but the program itself.

To bridge the gap between school food service and the community, the role of our new Wellness and Community Engagement Director position was created and incorporated into our food service department. This person will be a liaison between food services,



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Community School and the community. They will help promote our current breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner program, and teach the benefits of good nutrition. They will also work with community partners to develop new programs for our ongoing community needs, bring the classroom to the cafeteria, create smarter lunchrooms, as well as find more opportunities to bring everyone to the table.

As the board is aware, we have a very good fund balance in food service and are projected to go over the allowable fund balance.

The entire evaluation committee, which represented the entire District, was not only excited about this new structure, but was very excited to continue our work with our long term District partner.