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## **December 2024 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 Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

### **Student Transportation**

First Student was awarded the bid contract when we bid on the transportation services in April 2008. We extended the contract for an additional two years in 2011-2012 and an additional year each year after that. The driver shortage has improved this year, and our service continues to improve in terms of on-time service and reliability. The administration continues to work with First Student regarding their service. We appreciate the district's long-standing relationship with First Student and have requested our rates for the 2025-2026 school year. Typically, next year's rates are approved in May or June each year.

### **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 2025-2026 school year. We expect to know the 2025-2026 rates by May of 2025.

### **Food Service**

Quest Food Management Services became our food service provider this summer after securing the contract as the lowest reliable bidder. Quest has brought new food options and a new energy to our cafeterias. The service and quality remain high while they continue solidifying their staffing at our buildings. They even conducted a survey and ran a focus group with middle school students. Our current contract is a three-year contract, with the option to extend it beyond the three years on a yearly basis.

### **Auditing Services**

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, was awarded the bid when the district bid for auditing services in May 2020. We have entered into a five-year agreement with them as the Board feels it is best practice to change auditors every five years. This is our fifth year with Baker Tilly, and they have recently completed the audit. New this year, they conducted a comprehensive annual financial report, taking an even deeper dive into our financials, systems, and processes. Baker Tilly does an excellent job auditing our financials. Since it is our fifth year with them, we will request proposals for auditing services in early 2025 and recommend a new auditor to the board in the spring.