



UNITED TOWNSHIP

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30

To: Board of Education
From: Janice Roome, Comptroller
CC: Dr. Jay Morrow, Superintendent; Scott Ringberg, Food Service Director
Date: August 11, 2025
Re: Approval of Food Coop Merger

Background Information

Since FY18 our district has been part of the Northwest Illinois School Food Coop (NW IL COOP). There are currently fifteen (15) member districts. Other member districts include Cambridge, East Moline, Galesburg, Geneseo, Kewanee, Orion, Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico, River Bend, Riverdale, Rock Island, Rockridge, Silvis, Unity Christian Schools, and Wethersfield. The most recent agreement covers July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027, with a one-year automatic extension. The food cooperative helps all participating districts meet state and federal purchasing mandates as well as increases purchasing power for better pricing of high usage items.

Upon the suggestion of the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department, the NW IL COOP is considering a merger with the LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative (LCACP). The LCACP has 73 member districts in 21 counties. Both NW IL COOP and LCACP use the same food distributor. The estimated savings from membership in a larger cooperative is 1% to 2% of purchases.

Administrative Considerations

The boards of all member districts need to approve the merger for it to take place. The current membership fee for NW IL COOP is \$500 per year. The current fee for LCACP is \$.95 per student with a maximum of \$2,000. There is a possibility that the fee could be waived for the first year and/or the cap reduced to \$500. The NW IL COOP also has reserved funds that could be used to offset the membership cost for two years or more. The estimated 1% to 2% additional cost savings would more than offset any fee increase.

Options Considered

If all member districts do not agree to the merger, it is possible that the NISFC could disband and all members would be free to join different purchasing groups on their own.

Fund Source

Education Fund

Recommendation

We recommend the Board of Education approve merger of the NW IL COOP with the LCACP.