

To: Board of Education

From: Margo Empen, Superintendent

Subject: Action Item – Approve Breakfast and Lunch Prices for the 25-26 School Year
– May 21, 2025

PROPOSED MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

That the Board approves the breakfast and lunch prices for the 25-26 school year, as presented.

Moved by _____; Seconded by _____

YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
____ David Fritts	____	____ Brandon Rogers	____
____ Melissa Gates	____	____ Jon Wadsworth	____
____ Kathleen Schaefer	____	____ Linda Wegner	____
____ Linda LeBlanc-Parks	____		

Background: The following information was provided by Mr. Campbell:

In April 2025, the Board of Education approved the 1-year contract extension for the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) contract to Whitson Culinary Group. The approval of the contract is the billing rate and the next step in the process is to approve the price list for students.

Included in the packet is a draft price list for meals and ala carte items. Additionally, the table below represents a 5-year comparison of meal prices.

	<i>FY 26 – SY 25/26</i>	<i>FY 25 – SY 24/25</i>	<i>FY 24 – SY 23/24</i>	<i>FY 23 – SY 22/23</i>	<i>FY 22 – SY 21/22</i>	<i>FY 21 – SY 20/21</i>
Student Breakfast	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.20	\$1.00	\$0.80	\$0.80
Student Breakfast Reduced	\$.30	\$.30	\$.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30
Student Lunch Elementary	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.90	\$2.70	\$2.60	\$2.60
Student Lunch MS/HS	\$3.05	\$3.05	\$2.95	\$2.75	\$2.65	\$2.65
Student Lunch Reduced	\$.40	\$.40	\$.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40
Adult Lunch	\$3.65	\$3.55	\$3.40	\$3.20	\$3.05	\$3.05
Milk	\$.65	\$.65	\$.65	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.

Normally by this time in the year, the ISBE nutrition department has sent out communication to FSMC's and FSA's regarding the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Calculator. Unfortunately, this tool is not available at this time from the USDA. As a result, District Administration has contacted ISBE to review our current meal pricing.

Please note the following information;

- Dixon USD 170 over the allowable Net Cash Resources threshold by 2% and 1 of only 33 public school districts in that situation. (800 AFRs pulled for 2024)
- For the last 7 years, the USDA/Congress have passed Appropriations to allow School Food Authorities with a positive balance, such as Dixon, to be exempt from increasing lunch prices. In 2024, 68% of public schools in Illinois had a negative operational balance.
- Based on this information, ISBE has always stated to programs with a positive balance to take this exemption.

For the reasons above, ISBE's evaluation indicates and recommends that DPS would be in good shape NOT to increase lunch prices for the upcoming year. However, it should be noted that when it does come to time to make increases or if exemptions are NOT available for the 2026-27 school year and future years, the following should be noted:

- Current school year, Dixon is \$0.85 behind the USDA Target Rate
- Expected 2025-26 USDA Target Rate is \$4.01
- When increases are required, ISBE can only require a \$0.10 increase. Dixon has the discretion to increase further, but \$0.10 is the requirement.

It is the recommendation of DPS Administration to approve the FY 26 pricing list with lunch pricing of \$3.00/elementary and \$3.05/middle & high school.

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