



# **Diamond Lake School District 76**

**Embrace Empower Excel** Each Child Each Day

February 17, 2026

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Eric Rogers  
SUBJECT: Food Service Joint Contract Renewal - Whitsons

Diamond Lake has almost completed its fourth year of its joint contract with Mundelein District 75 and Whitsons Food Service (formerly Arbor) and it has been a huge success. Whitsons has been a fantastic partner who has elevated our meal program for our students. Whitsons is very responsive to Diamond Lake's requests and they have elevated the food offerings to bring more fresh food and have implemented several new breakfast options such as smoothies.

Diamond Lake continues to operate the Community Eligibility Provision program (CEP) which provides free breakfast and lunch for its students. This has brought about high participation levels and the program has broken even in terms of the expenses of the program and the reimbursements that the district receives from the federal government.

The district has received its renewal agreement from Whitsons for the 2026-27 school year which follows an ISBE capped increase of the lower of the CPI-U Food Away from Home (3.6%) or 3.0%. As always, we continuously strive to bring the best food service options for the students of Diamond Lake School District and I believe Whitsons can provide that.

I am recommending that the district approve the year two renewal agreement with Whitsons for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$2.14 per breakfast and \$4.04 per lunch.