



memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: May 16, 2025
Subject: Recommendation to Approve Food Service Management Company

As you know, we completed our Food Service RFP Review in early April and sent our recommendation down to ISBE on April 17th. We received confirmation from ISBE on April 29th (see attached) that they had reviewed and approved our recommendation and that we can now proceed with the next step of the process by obtaining Board approval to contract with the recommended Food Service Management Company, Quest Foods of Lombard, IL. With the Board of Education's approval of this recommended vendor on May 19th, we would complete and submit the ISBE Step 3 – Post Contract Award Summary Form and provide all required and related documentation. We would also begin planning for the transition from Open Kitchens (providing food services through the end of the current school year) to Quest Food Management (which will start providing food services at the beginning of the next school year). With Board approval on May 19th, Quest is planning to come out and review our operations and the setup of our kitchens and cafeterias on May 28th, and talk to Open Kitchen's current food service staff about employment opportunities with Quest Foods. We also recently negotiated with Open Kitchens to purchase the existing equipment owned by Open Kitchens for \$34,800 that is located at each of our schools (the steam tables, salad bar carts, freezers, coolers and other miscellaneous equipment), as the school district owning and providing all of the necessary equipment was a condition of this year's RFP. As this purchase of used equipment is under \$35,000, we are not asking for formal Board approval, but we wanted you to know and are including the information in this recommendation memo. As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know...thanks!

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Education approve Quest Food Management Services of Lombard, IL to be the school district's new food service management company. With Board approval, and pending final approval from ISBE, we would then contract with Quest for a five year term, renewable annually, per the RFP specifications, and begin preparing for the transition from our current provider (Open Kitchens) to our new provider (Quest) next school year. We would also remain a participant in the USDA School Breakfast and Lunch Program, and the State of Illinois Milk Program, as we have done for many years.