

To: Board of Education

From: Margo Empen, Superintendent

Subject: Action Item – Approve the Food Service Management Contract – April 16, 2025

PROPOSED MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

That the Board approve the food service management contract, 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:

Arbor Management, Inc. has been providing food service to the students of Dixon Unit School District #170 for many years. During the FY 24 school year, the District conducted a formal bidding process for implementation in SY 24/25. In May 2025, the Board awarded the Food Service Management Contract (FSMC) to Arbor Management, Inc. These contracts are for 5-years and work on a yearly renewal rate determined by ISBE. Over the summer of 2025, Arbor Management, Inc. changed ownership to Whitson Culinary Group which has continued to provide quality service for DPS and has proven to be an excellent partner in servicing the students and families of the Dixon Community.

The FY 26 renewal cost for food service by Whitsons includes an increase of 3.6%. The 3.6% increase is an allowable CPI increase as regulated by ISBE. Renewal documents are due to ISBE by May 15, 2025 which is prior to our next Board meeting and unfortunately the PLE calculator still being unavailable, we were unable at this time to finalize the price list. We will work for conclusion in May 2025. The table below represents a 5-year comparison of meal prices.

	<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	\$1.20	\$1.00	\$0.80	\$0.80
Student Breakfast Reduced	\$.30	\$.30	\$.30	\$0.30	\$0.30
Student Lunch Elementary	\$3.00	\$2.90	\$2.70	\$2.60	\$2.60
Student Lunch MS/HS	\$3.05	\$2.95	\$2.75	\$2.65	\$2.65
Student Lunch Reduced	\$.40	\$.40	\$.40	\$0.40	\$0.40
Adult Lunch	\$3.55	\$3.40	\$3.20	\$3.05	\$3.05
Milk	\$.65	\$.65	\$.60	\$0.60	\$0.60

The necessary renewal information provided by Whitsons, per ISBE’s renewal guidelines, for the Districts Food Service renewal for FY 26 is attached. It is the recommendation of DPS Administration to approve the one-year extension of the Food Service Contract with Whitsons for FY 26. Upon approval the appropriate documentation will be sent to ISBE for final approval and Whitsons.