

WBCSD Child Nutrition Program Task Force Progress Report

To: West Bonner County School District Board of Trustee

From : WBCSD Child Nutrition Program Task Force

Presented on: March 18, 2026



Overarching Goal - *Program integrity, viability and accountability, and health and wellness of students.*

Key Discussion/Research

- Program Budget - FY25, FY26, FY27 (Revenue vs. Expenditures)
- Explore Other Potential Efficiencies/Savings & Revenue Sources
- Summer (School) Food Program
- Comparison of Regional Salaries

Identified Issues/Challenges/Initial Recommendations

BUDGET ISSUES/CHALLENGES

- The Child Nutrition Program is expected to end FY26 with a \$302,366.52 deficit. [\$100,000 is budgeted to be transferred from the General Fund for the FY26 deficit.]
- Unable to identify individual school expenditures.
- À la carte sales appeared not to be captured.
- For FY27, expect 3% increase in food cost.
- Insurance benefits expected to increase, State not matching expected increase.

Initial Recommendations/Summarized

- Develop an inventory spreadsheet to capture inventory in the warehouse and in each school. (Spreadsheet templates are available from various sources.)
- Summertime is the best time to implement because inventory is at its lowest point.
- Check Skyward for adult and à la carte sales printouts.
- Look for additional budget savings and reductions.

PRL JR/HS CHALLENGES/ISSUES

- Extremely Low Meal Numbers
- HS students are leaving campus. Interested in burgers, pizza, fries.
- Competition on campus by other food offerings and/or food being brought in for a number of students at one time. Concern regarding food safety and whether following WBCSD Wellness Policy 8200 series, which is required - <https://www.sd83.org/departments/childnutrition>.
- Discussed pros & cons of closing the campus for all, certain grades and/ or GPAs.

Initial Recommendations/Summarized

- Create and distribute a survey to JR/HS students and one for District parents.
- Send a food cart down to the JR wing/annex.
- Expand à la carte for everyone.
- Post menu on website and/or visible location(s) in school. - Post for the whole month.
- Announce over intercom (e.g. at JR/HS).
- Create a survey for JR/HS students.
- Work with JR/HS Business CTE Programs.

DISTRICTWIDE CHALLENGES

- Menus not found on on website(s).
- Free & Reduced numbers are low. Application numbers directly impact IT numbers via E-Rate. - People do not like the hard copy forms; they want more anonymity.
- Not sure Title I Program (McKinney Vento Act) recipients are being reflected in the numbers.

Initial Recommendations/Summarized

- Post menu on website - Post for upcoming month.
- Make seconds a reduced price (e.g. \$1.75)
- Create a digital on-line form to sign-up for Free & Reduced; creates more anonymity. Can now ask everyone to fill out because of SNAP requirements; parents can complete by indicating they don't want to fill out.
- Improve marketing of the Meal Program.
- Look at Farm to School opportunities (e.g. LPOSD purchases/procures Blueberries from Riley Creek Blueberry Farm.)
- Schedule something every month that is fun.
- Double check to make sure all eligible students (eg. Title I) are reflected in the numbers.
- Review and implement SMART SNACK compliant policy. Don't include actual caloric numbers but instead indicate, "Must be compliant with USDA...."
- Need to update ASAP the District's Idaho Wellness Policy Progress Report found on WBCSD Child Nutrition website: <https://www.sd83.org/departments/childnutrition>.
- Need to review Wellness Policy 8200 Series for compliance and potential changes:

Wellness Policy:

8200 - Student Physical Activity and Wellness

8210 - Nutrition

8220 - Food Services

8225 - Student Meal Charges

8230 - District Nutrition Standards

8235 - Water Consumption - Water Bottle Policy

8240 - School Meals

8245 - Competitive Food Services

8250 - Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sold Individually

8260 - Vending Machines

Summer (School) Food Program

- Implementing a Summer Food Program is a win for the District.
- Identifying potential distribution locations (Blanchard, Edgemere, Blue Lake Grange, Laclede, Priest River areas - Mud Hole (USACE), Bonner West Park (County), IDH, PRE and PLE. Discussed sites that meet the 50% or greater low-income population criteria according to Census Data. Discussed alternative sites such as Oldtown Rotary Park and Dickensheet. Site to check eligibility: <https://apps2.sde.idaho.gov/cnpeeligibility/Report>.
- On track to file in April for the Summer Program.
 - Finalizing eligible areas.
 - Need to have in place contracts with certain locations. (Have access to a contract template.)
 - Discussed distribution logistics:
 - WBCSD Child Nutrition van for deliveries, not personal vehicles.
 - Do only bagged lunch and breakfast. Not onsite meals.
 - Deliver on Mondays (2-days) - Wednesdays (2 days) - Fridays (3 days).
 - Projected 100 meals/day; \$3.20/breakfast and \$5.60/lunch reimbursement.
 - The Child Nutrition Director will update the Board at the March 18th Regular Meeting.
 - Will need two people, manager and assistant, to run the Summer Program.

Comparison of Regional Salaries

- Compared Nutrition Program salaries from adjacent districts and those of similar size in the region. WBCSD salaries are somewhat consistently higher.
- Discussed Longevity Stipends and need to review. There seems to be some inequities. Consider looking at % of salary vs. \$\$ amount.
 - Research how other districts handle Classified/Non-Certified stipends.
 - Suggest Meet & Confer, once re-established, review the issue.
- Discussed the pros and cons of food service management companies (e.g. SFE).

Moving Forward - March 19th Task Force Discussion

- Status of Free & Reduced Online Form
- Review of Food Service Survey for Students & Parents
- Update on PRLJRHS (e.g. Annex Food Cart, Other On-Site Food Options)
- Other Items (e.g. Marketing, Inventory Spreadsheet)
- Summer School Food Program - Distribution Locations
- Synergies with PRLJRHS CTE Business Program
- Continue researching budget efficiencies.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS?