

Lyon County School District Board Memo

Date: May 26, 2026
To: Board of School Trustees
From: Harman Bains, Executive Director of Operations
Re: Board of Trustees Meeting Dinner Service

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees approve the continuation of Board Dinners at the newly negotiated rate effective June 2026.

Background Information:

The Lyon County School District has historically provided a working dinner at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. The meal is served to approximately twenty-two individuals per meeting, including trustees, cabinet members, school resource officers, guest presenters appearing before the Board, and the area principals and assistant principals required to attend. Meetings convene on Tuesday evenings and routinely extend four to six hours, beginning at the conventional dinner hour. Most attendees travel directly from a full workday to the meeting site and remain through adjournment without any practical opportunity to return home for a meal. The working dinner was authorized to ensure that personnel and elected officials are appropriately fed and able to participate at full capacity throughout the proceedings.

The dinner also serves a practical professional function. The brief meal window is one of the few structured opportunities each month for trustees, cabinet, and site leadership to engage in informal discussion of district initiatives, and school operations outside the formal proceedings of a public meeting. For administrators traveling from other attendance areas, in some cases over an hour away, the on-site meal eliminates an unreasonable expectation that staff secure their own dinner during the narrow window between their workday and a public meeting they are required to attend. Eliminating the meal would not eliminate the obligation to attend. It would simply transfer the cost and inconvenience to staff already extending their day by four to six hours in service to the Board and the District.

Budget Considerations

A review of FY 2025-26 board catering invoices to date reflects an average monthly cost of \$398.51 across all board meeting dinners, equating to a per-attendee cost of \$18.11 based on a standing headcount of twenty-two.

Following direct negotiation with Chartwells, the District has secured a revised meal rate of \$5.25 per attendee for all future board meeting dinners. Under the new pricing, the cost per meeting drops from an average of \$398.51 to \$115.50, a reduction of \$283.01 per meeting, or approximately 71% with no reduction in meal quality, attendee coverage, or service standard. The adjustment is effective June 2026.

Discussed at Previous Meeting April 2026

Attachment(s) N/A

Mission Statement Lyon County School District fosters learning for life, empowers connected learners, promotes student ownership, and encourages discovery learning for success in a rapidly evolving world.