

To: Board of Education  
 From: Margo Empen, Superintendent  
 Subject: Action Item, Approve the Food Service Management Contract – April 15, 2026

PROPOSED MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

That the Board approves food service management contract, as presented.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
_____ David Fritts	_____	_____ Kathleen Schaefer	_____
_____ Melissa Gates	_____	_____ Jon Wadsworth	_____
_____ Linda LeBlanc-Parks	_____	_____ Linda Wegner	_____
_____ Brandon Rogers	_____		

**Background:**

In May 2025, the Board awarded the five-year Food Service Management Contract (FSMC) to Arbor Management, Inc., with annual renewals set at ISBE-determined rates. During the summer of 2025, Arbor Management, Inc. transitioned ownership to Whitson Culinary Group. Since that time, Whitson Culinary Group has continued to provide high-quality service and has proven to be a strong partner in serving the students and families of the Dixon Community.

The FY 27 renewal cost for food service by Whitsons includes an increase of 4.1%. The 4.1% increase is an allowable CPI increase as regulated by ISBE. Renewal documents are due to ISBE by May 15, 2026 which is prior to our next Board meeting.

Reimbursement Rates:

<i><b>NSLP</b></i>	<i><b>SY 25/26</b></i>	<i><b>SY 26/27</b></i>	<i><b>% Inc.</b></i>
Breakfast w/Milk	\$1.95	\$2.029	4.1%
Lunch w/Milk	\$4.23	\$4.403	4.1%
Ala Cart Equivalent	\$4.23	\$4.403	4.1%

In May, Administration will bring menu price approval to the Board. At this time, the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Calculator is not available for evaluation of menu prices.

The necessary renewal information provided by Whitsons, per ISBE’s renewal guidelines, for the Districts Food Service renewal for FY 27 is attached. It is the recommendation of DPS Administration to approve the one-year extension of the Food

Service Contract with Whitsons for FY 27. Upon approval the appropriate documentation will be sent to ISBE for final approval and Whitsons.