

# Food Services

Pre-Recommendation Presentation

3/28/2023

# Purpose

- Advise the District stakeholders of imminent matters related to District food services
- Advise the Board on future Board actions and potential budget impact
- Advise the Board on communications plan relative to imminent matters of food services

# Guiding Matters

- The [National School Lunch Program](#) NSLP (simple summary) is a USDA assisted meal program operating in public schools.
  - The program places specific food standards (food type, ingredients, and preparation standards) on the school in order for the school to receive a subsidy (money back from government).
- District Policy 246 School Wellness
- District Policy
  - 808 – Food Services
    - 808.1 – Free and Reduced Priced meals
    - 808.2 – Point of Sale

# Current Status

- All 7 schools operate under the NSLP
- Aramark provides the management and operational oversight
- Aramark has been the food services provider since 2011/2012 SY
- 2022 Niche ranking has Food Services in Methacton as “C”
- District required to issue RFP every 5 years (this is end of 5 year agreement/sequence)
- Staffing challenges in Food Services has limited the availability, choice, quality of foods (7 staff short currently)
- Free breakfast for all students increases challenges associated with staffing limitations

# Plan of Action

Central Bucks School District  
Council Rock School District  
Dallas School District  
Dallastown Area School District  
Downingtown Area School District  
Hampton Township School District  
Marple Newtown School District  
North Allegheny School District  
North Pocono School District  
Owen J. Roberts School District  
Penn-Trafford School District  
Springfield School District  
Stroudsburg Area School District  
West Chester Area School District

- Strategic Plan Initiative – Increase ranking
  - Reviewed rankings of top 100 A+ districts who also had an A+ rating in food services
    - Determined:
      - Those listed used a 3rd party provider
      - Others had in house food service programs
      - Almost all did not have their HS on NSLP
  - Goal:
    - Improve access to better quality/variety/dietary options for all students
    - Increase our ranking in Food Services from C to an A+
  - Created Arcola and High School Food Services Review Teams
    - Students/Staff Teams
      - Discussion
      - Menu selection
      - Taste testing
      - Site visits
  - Issue RFP
    - Students/Staff Teams feedback incorporated in RFP
    - Students/Staff Teams + Board/Parents involved in RFP review and final vendor selection

# RFP Components

- Menu updates based on student selections/discussion (Arcola/SV/HS)
- Product specifications
- Added district chef to requirement to support cooks and line workers
- Added option for HS to go off NSLP
- Added grab/go beverage café (HS only)
- Rating matrix incorporated focus on food service staff salaries

# Main Decisions & Impact

## Main Decisions

- A recommendation of vendor for all 7 school buildings – April 2023
- A recommendation of staying on or going off NSLP at high school – April 2023
  - Includes potential budgetary impact – (Review April/Include in May Proposed Final Budget)

## Anticipated Impact

- All schools will provide free/reduced meals (on or off NSLP)
- All schools will benefit from district chef – better quality/variety/options
- All schools will benefit from increase Food Service staff wages (ability to attract more staff to provide more options/services)
- All school meal prices will comply with the NSLP pricing tool (on or off NSLP)
- All schools meals will increase in product quality based on specifications in RFP
- Skyview/Arcola/High School will gain access to premium meals
- High School will gain access to grab and go/café option
- Decreased food waste

# Projection of Costs

- Schools on NSLP:
  - Vendor provides a financial guarantee
  - Access to Federal commodities
- Schools off the NSLP:
  - Require district to separate financial operations from sites that are NSLP
  - District will need to cover free/reduce priced meals
  - District will need to cover food start-up costs
  - Costs to establish Grab and Go/Café at HS



# Timeline

- (April 5) RFP Round 1 Review – target top two vendors
- (April 14) RFP Round 2 Review – select recommended vendor
- (April 18) Board Work Session - Vendor/NSLP or Non NSLP presentation/discussion
- (April 25) Board vote on recommendation
- (May 17) Incorporate any budgetary impact into Proposed Final Budget

# Communications

- February 23, 2023 – Update-Community Conversations newsletter
- March 15, 2023 - Presentation at Finance Committee
- March 23, 2023 – Update to district staff
- March 28, 2023 - Presentation to Board
- March 29, 2023 – Update-Board Notes to families
- March 31, 2023 – Update Community Conversations newsletter
- April 14, 2023 – Each Friday in April–Building Principal weekly news
- April 17, 2023 – Direct communication to parents on what, why, when, and impact them and their child(ren)
- April 18, 2023 - Final recommendation to Board
- April 25, 2023 – Board vote on final recommendation