

To: Board of Education
Dr. Laurie Heinz, Superintendent

From: Luann Kolstad, Chief School Business Official

Date: March 21, 2016

Subject: Survey Data on Elementary Hot Lunch Program

Background

At the January 26, 2016 Board of Education meeting, administration began the discussion with the Board on exploring the feasibility of implementing a hot lunch program at the five elementary schools for the 2016-17 school year. At that meeting, the PTO/A's current role in terms of offering a Hot Lunch Program was reviewed along with an update on restrictions from the City of Park Ridge that will curtail their ability to maintain their current service to District 64 families next year. The estimated costs associated with getting the District's program up and running were also reviewed with the Board.

Action Research

Since that meeting, administration has conducted action research in several areas. This work includes:

Building Visits

In the interim, administration has conducted a thorough review of each school's kitchen area(s) with the principal to understand each building's potential needs if a hot lunch program was initiated. Working with the principals and the Superintendent, we will be able to alleviate many of the issues raised, including storage of lunchtime equipment, master schedules, the Park District's *Beyond the Bell* equipment, and clarifying the role of the District 64 lunchroom supervisor going forward.

Sustainability

Administration has also been working with Lakeshore, the District's current waste hauler in Park Ridge regarding sustainability options and the cost to the District for such options. Currently, the District's trash is charged on a "per pick up basis," not on a "tonnage basis" as was previously misquoted to the Board during Public Comments at the February 22 Board meeting and in letters that have been sent to the Board. Our research indicates that there is a considerable cost increase in waste hauling, if the District moves to a composting solution. For our six schools in Park Ridge, the annual cost is estimated at \$13,400 for a once a week pick-up. There would be no cost savings in waste hauling since this is charged on a "per pick up basis." Lakeshore also pointed out that we will have an increased rodent and insect population along with an odor during months when the temperature is above freezing. The District will incur additional costs for pest management. Per Lakeshore, composting is a considerably more expensive service relative to waste and recycling, the reason being is the lack of density and participation. Restaurants and homeowners are not required to compost their waste.

In addition, we have been collaborating with Arbor Food Management Services on options available to the schools for different levels of recycling. A representative from Arbor will be at the April 11, 2016 Board meeting to answer questions and provide additional information. Arbor also will bring samples of trays, recyclable utensils and garbage bags that are an option for the District in terms of increased sustainability practices.

Survey of Parents/Guardians

Administration conducted a brief survey from March 9 - March 15 of all current elementary parents/guardians to gauge their interest in a hot lunch program at their elementary school. (Attachment 1)

The survey was intended to be a brief and focused on gathering parental opinion as part of the action research we are undertaking on the feasibility of introducing a District 64 Hot Lunch Program. This survey provides another piece of data to add into the picture. One day after launching the survey, we had already received almost 700 responses when it was called to our attention that in Question 3 (how many days/week you might be interested in purchasing a hot lunch for your student), there was no "0" option. Parents were then notified via School Messenger that if they had no interest, to respond by checking "1 day." We indicated that in our final report, the response of "1 day" would also be used to indicate no interest. Within that School Messenger, we also encouraged parents to continue using the open comment area to offer their thoughts.

Surveys were completed by 1,071 respondents, who are well mixed among the five schools and grade levels. Lower participation at 5th grade is likely due to the fact that those students will be moving on to middle school where daily hot lunch is already available.

Here are the key results:

Participation: *(Note that the 5th day would remain a PTO/A fundraiser pizza day)*

- No interest/1 day: about 15%
- 2 days: 20%
- 3 or 4 days: about 65%

Order/Pay:

- 57% would prefer to order/pay one month in advance.

Recyclable Plates/Utensils:

- 76% would support a slight increase (not more than 50 cents) in the cost of the daily hot lunch (which was stated as being not more than \$3.50/day)

Complete survey results are attached to this Board report, so that Board members can review the survey and all responses, and read the 373 comments made by parents. (Attachment 2)

The survey and comments indicate that there is positive support for continuing to explore the feasibility of introducing a daily hot lunch program to the elementary schools. We are continuing to sort topics and trends so these can be included with the FAQ (see below) and guide further planning, e.g., menu nutrition information, recycling practices, organic/healthy offerings, etc.

Next Steps

Moving forward, we are continuing our research and planning further opportunities for outreach, prior to asking for authorization to implement a program in 2016-17:

- **April 11, 2016 Board meeting** - As mentioned above, Arbor Food Management Services will attend the April 11, 2016 Board meeting to provide detailed information about sustainability options and answer other questions from the Board regarding the proposed elementary hot lunch program. In addition, administration will have further data analysis to share with the Board from the parent/guardian survey on hot lunch.
- **PTO/A Presidents April 12 meeting** - Tim Schwartz from the Park Ridge Health Department will be at our next PTO/A Presidents meeting on April 12, 2016, to answer any questions they may have about food handling requirements if the PTO/As were to independently continue offering a pizza fundraiser and limited hot lunches in 2016-17, should the Board not authorize a District 64 program. At this meeting, administration will also take the opportunity to share the hot lunch survey results with the PTO/A leadership. We also will have a further discussion regarding cost-sharing with the PTO/As to launch a program.
- **Frequently Asked Questions** - We are mining the parent comments received via the survey (described above) as well as input received via email and from the Superintendent's recent presentations at elementary PTO/A meetings to prepare a set of FAQs. These will be shared with all elementary parents via our website, and can be updated as we continue moving through this feasibility study.

Administration anticipates returning to the Board at the April 25 regular Board meeting for a final review prior to seeking authorization to proceed.

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64

Dear Parents/Guardians:

District 64 is investigating starting a daily Hot Lunch Program at the elementary schools, potentially beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

We are interested in receiving feedback from parents/guardians on your level of interest.

Currently, our elementary school PTO/As have arranged to offer hot lunches 1-2 days per week; most offer this as a service to families and do not price above cost. In addition, some PTO/A groups are offering a pizza lunch one day per week, which is typically priced as a fundraiser.

The PTO/A Presidents welcomed our recent offer to investigate launching a District 64 daily Hot Lunch Program. They have reported increasing difficulties finding volunteers to work during the lunch hour.

In addition, the Park Ridge Health Department is tightening its compliance with food handling requirements and training of volunteers. We have been informed that in 2016-17, the elementary school PTO/As would be limited to providing a maximum of 28 days per year of food service, including both their current hot lunch offerings and pizza fundraisers. District 64 would not be subject to that limitation.

The survey is very short and quick to complete. Your responses are anonymous.

*** 1. Which elementary school does your student(s) attend?**

- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Field
- ☐ Franklin
- ☐ Roosevelt
- ☐ Washington

*** 2. What grade level(s) are your students currently in? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ Grade 1
- ☐ Grade 2
- ☐ Grade 3
- ☐ Grade 4
- ☐ Grade 5

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64

Menus would be provided in advance. Every lunch would include a daily entree, fruit, vegetable, and beverage (choice of milk, juice, or water).

No matter what is decided, the elementary milk program would still be offered.

The price would be no higher than \$3.50/day.

***3. If the District offered a daily hot lunch program, how many days per week would you be interested in purchasing? The 5th day would remain a PTO/A fundraiser pizza day.**

- ☐ 1 Day
- ☐ 2 Days
- ☐ 3 Days
- ☐ 4 Days

***4. Currently, PTO/As do not provide a refund for missed lunches due to absence. District 64 would continue that practice.**

How would you prefer to order and pay for your student's hot lunch:

- ☐ 1 month in advance
- ☐ 2 weeks in advance
- ☐ 1 week in advance
- ☐ Daily (1 day at a time)

***5. District 64 is researching the use of plates and utensils that students can be taught to deposit in labeled containers to be taken for recycling, instead of mixed in with unsorted garbage that is taken to a landfill.**

Would you support a slight increase (not more than 50¢) in the cost of the daily lunch for this sustainability effort?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64

6. If the decision is made to move forward, many other details about the operation of the program will need to be finalized. We will continue to communicate with parents as this effort continues.

Do you have any suggestions, comments or concerns you would like us to consider?

Questions? For questions about your individual school's current operations, please contact your PTO/A. For questions about District 64's proposal, please contact Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, 847-318-4300.

Thank you for participating! Please press "Done" before leaving this survey.

**Park Ridge-Niles School District 64
Elementary Hot Lunch Program Survey – March 2016**

1. Which elementary school does your student(s) attend?

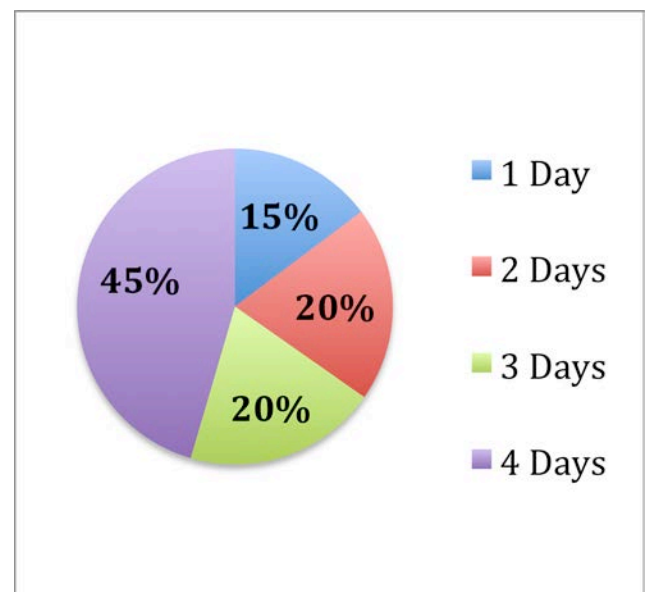
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Carpenter | 16.5% | 195 |
| Field | 24.0% | 283 |
| Franklin | 16.7% | 197 |
| Roosevelt | 23.3% | 275 |
| Washington | 19.4% | 229 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 1179 |
| <i>skipped question</i> | | 0 |

**2. What grade level(s) are your students currently in?
(Select all that apply)**

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kindergarten | 22.0% | 236 |
| Grade 1 | 28.4% | 304 |
| Grade 2 | 26.5% | 284 |
| Grade 3 | 24.2% | 259 |
| Grade 4 | 24.7% | 265 |
| Grade 5 | 17.6% | 188 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 1071 |
| <i>skipped question</i> | | 108 |

3. If the District offered a daily hot lunch program, how many days per week would you be interested in purchasing? The 5th day would remain a PTO/A fundraiser pizza day.

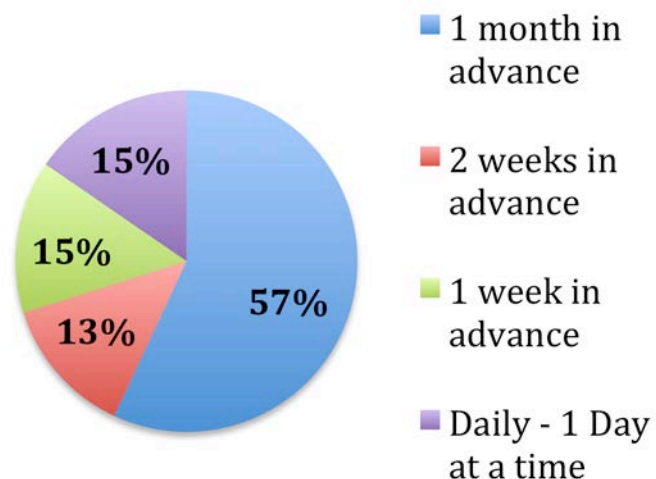
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Day | 14.8% | 158 |
| 2 Days | 20.0% | 214 |
| 3 Days | 19.8% | 212 |
| 4 Days | 45.5% | 487 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | 1071 |
| <i>skipped question</i> | | 108 |



NOTE: "1 DAY" ALSO INCLUDES "0"

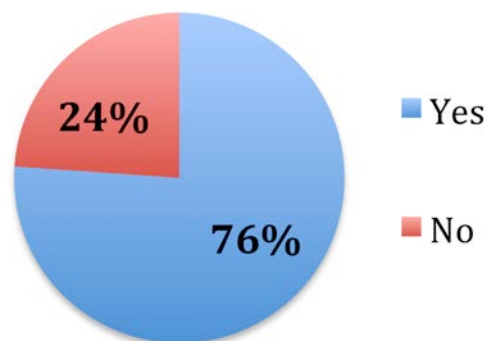
4. Currently, PTO/As do not provide a refund for missed lunches due to absence. District 64 would continue that practice. How would you prefer to order and pay for your student's hot lunch:

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 month in advance | 57.0% | 610 |
| 2 weeks in advance | 13.2% | 141 |
| 1 week in advance | 14.5% | 155 |
| Daily (1 day at a time) | 15.4% | 165 |
| answered question | | 1071 |
| skipped question | | 108 |



5. District 64 is researching the use of plates and utensils that students can be taught to deposit in labeled containers to be taken for recycling, instead of mixed in with unsorted garbage that is taken to a landfill. Would you support a slight increase (not more than 50¢) in the cost of the daily lunch for this sustainability effort?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 76.1% | 815 |
| No | 23.9% | 256 |
| answered question | | 1071 |
| skipped question | | 108 |



6. If the decision is made to move forward, many other details about the operation of the program will need to be finalized. We will continue to communicate with parents as this effort continues. Do you have any suggestions, comments or concerns you would like us to consider?

| Answer Options | Response Count |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| | 373 |
| <i>answered question</i> | 373 |
| <i>skipped question</i> | 806 |

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| Organic foods as an imperative for the healthy development of our children |
| I would just ask that menu options be as fresh and healthy as possible. Minimal sugar & salt. Doesn't have to be hot more than 1-2x/week |
| Please consider students with egg and nut allergies in your program and how ingredients and preparation practices might be communicated to parents. |
| In general, its important to me that the food be high quality, as in healthy. I just mean that French fries or potato chips can't count as the vegetable, fat needs to not overwhelm the protein. Its hard to see how you could do that for \$3.50, so we would most likely not be participating (consider my "1 day" response in question 3 to be a zero). Also, I'd like to see an option for organic, or at least no added hormone, milk. |
| Knowing the menus well ahead of time would be essential because my child has dietary restrictions. Thank you. |
| The partner's online ordering system needs to be revised and the mobile app completely reworked. And why is there an additional fee to process your order and pay online versus bringing a check to the school (organizer). This seems wrong. An online order should result in less paperwork for the organizers and less administrative time. The check in and administering off lunch takes to long. My child barely has time to eat since his class is usually the last to arrive. |
| I'm concerned about the nutritional value of the food, food waste, and overall waste. |
| What will you offer the children who can not afford these meals? The brown bag lunch is a poor substitute and embarrassing to the child who has to take it. Please Please find a solution to this ..having that child parade that across the lunch room is a sad situation...as administrators here in this community surely you can find a solution for these children. Do not forget these children! Thank you. |
| The school should keep offering hot lunches to students. |
| Please provide accurate and easily available nutritional information, which is critical for some children with health conditions (ie, carb counts for juvenile diabetes). |
| I support sustainability, but 50 cents per student per day seems really high. Will this amount come down over time? I would hope the district found a way to bring this amount down. |
| I would not care for the idea if it means losing space |
| Please discontinue Kiddie Kingdom Pizza from Franklin (my kids refuse to eat it). They used to love pizza day and now we no longer buy it. If possible, you should consider joining in with another school(s) to get a discounted Pizza rate across the board. Please consider either Panino's, Domino's or Spuntinos in Park Ridge. Thank you for your consideration!!!! |
| No gmo Organic clean food |
| Just do it. Would be a good alternative to the sack lunch. |
| As far as the pay options, i am open to pay monthly, bi-weekly or daily. Or how about a debit card system, the school can issue a student id type of card and i can reload it as necessary and it is swiped at school as the child buys lunch. |
| I hope that if the District moves forward with implementing this program, strong consideration is given to using a truly healthy company to provide nutritious and tasty meals, similar to those provided by Healthy Kids Kitchen. |
| That as much of the food offerings as possible be organic |
| More hot soups & looking for Polish menu-PIEROGI ;) |

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| Please be sure that the lunches are kid friendly--and that they have some staying power. Cheese quesadillas are a ridiculous food--they get completely hard--but no one cares because it is kids. Don't feed them anything an adult wouldn't eat. |
| I'm only sorry that my son will no longer be at Washington to take part in the initiative! |
| It would be great to be able to decide daily if the child would like hot lunch or not. |
| Pls. do try to make this happen. It does help us parents a lot in so many ways if lunch would be an option in school. Thank you. |
| Waste management and sustainability seem to be a weakness for the current lunch program. I would like to see an improvement in educating students/staff/volunteers to help reduce the amount that is being thrown out in the garbage. Encouraging parents to also have talks with their kids on what they are throwing out/not eating in bagged lunches as well. |
| I would either like to have the lunch program like Emerson, where the parents could put money in the kids account, or order the lunch in advance if my first suggestion isn't an option. |
| Please try to include healthy options and sides, fruits, chicken, etc. |
| Need consistent portions. Healthier options and more variety. |
| As a mother of children with gluten free diet, I would appreciate that you will provide some gluten free options, such as corn tortilla instead of wheat, so that those children will have opportunities to enjoy the hot lunch. |
| I really care that our children eat organic food. I've done some research I found some organic food catering companies like: OrganicLife LLC, Gourmet Gorilla Inc., Good Food For Kids, Green Monkey Inc, Quality Catering For Kids Inc, Two Mothers Food |
| I do not support nor want this. The survey is troubling as well because there were no choices for 0 days or saying no to paying. So I had to pick one day to submit. Please remove it from your totals as it should be 0. |
| field school is running out of space, if providing this means losing space then I would not participate at all, there is nothing wrong with brown bagging it! |
| My main concern is that food is healthy. Personally I do not like the idea of bringing pizza in. Kids love pizza (I certainly do as well) however it isn't teaching healthy eating. Schools have a unique ability to be a controlled environment that can force the issue of healthy eating. |
| Healthy food options for our young, growing minds :) |
| Who would prepare the food? |
| Above you ask "How would you prefer to order and pay for your student's hot lunch?" but do not offer my current preference for hot lunch and pizza day, namely paying a semester at a time! |
| I did not see an option for NO interest in a hot lunch program. I am not remotely interested in a hot lunch program. I would be interested in the schools doing more to support recycling in the lunchroom!! |
| Can you provide more information on the nutrition and what quality of food you will provide? I will be happy with more information closer to the 'go live' date. I would not want my children to eat pizza more than 1 day a week |
| Thank you for considering healthy options that the kids will eat! |
| It would be helpful if images accompanied the lunch options, to give a better idea of the type of foods, portion sizes, etc |
| Any healthy options? Vegetables, fruits...instead of pizza day! |
| I would prefer there be choices daily if possible. |
| I hope it's affordable. Between the outrageous school fees we pay and when you have more than two kids in school and live on one income, it gets very expensive. |
| Hot lunch would be awesome! |
| Awesome awesome my kids don't care for healthy kitchen and pretty expensive and doesn't include drink! And very expensive |

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| Wonderful idea. But don't forget these are kids eating. Nothing fancy. Don't fulfill some mythical "healthy" obligation in lieu of food that kids 6-11 will actually eat. Kids don't eat chicken legs and roast potatoes. In addition: much thought should be given to what happens to the food in the warmers. Lots of foods become soggy and gross. Let's not serve food to The kids we would not eat ourselves. Kids like repeat foods too...so get a decent few menus and repeat them. |
| I would love it if hot lunch was offered 4 days a week! I hope it would continue to be real food. Not frozen, super processes junk with a bunch of chemicals. If that is the case, I wouldn't order hot lunch for my kids. |
| Payments could be done through a punch card that parents could pay for in advance. |
| I believe that before asking parents what they would want from such a program you need to provide more information, specifically regarding the costs associated with instituting and implementing the program. Will this cost the district \$10,000 or \$100,000? Will you be using existing funds or asking tax payers to pay more? My view on this matter would differ greatly based on the associated costs. I would rather pack my children lunch 5 days per week than take funds that could be used for more important services that benefit my children; e.g. teacher grants, school safety, facility upgrades. This survey does not provide the extent of information I would want to help me make an informed decision. Furthermore, today we received an email from Dr. Heinz stating that those respondents who are not interested in any days of hot lunch should "respond by checking 1 day". In my opinion this makes the survey completely invalid. I expect more from a district which I believe hires and votes in very well educated administrators and board members. |
| I would just like to make sure food will be hot when offered and that they get enough time to eat |
| Not enough time to eat lunch much less stand in line to receive food. Then if your not done will they be forced to discard it or stand in the kitchen with a tray in their hands like they have to do now. Stand in a small kitchen to finish their lunch. Not appropriate at all. To much wasted food because kids don't eat what they don't pick or know ahead of time what was packed. The price is good. The idea is good too but the cost to start the program shold not be impacted by the parents or the pto. Thank you |
| I appreciate the variety of food offered. I asked my son too if he had any suggestions & he said more watermelon & chicken tenders. Also, warm pasta. |
| Why would they limit the number of days to serve lunch to 28? That is approximately 3 days a month!! As a parent, there is nothing I dislike more than making a lunch for my kids in the morning. Currently, Healthy Kids Kitchen brings excellent lunches twice a week. I wish it were more!!! |
| Would there be a date were the parents can sample the food that would be served? |
| One of my children must eat gluten-free meals. Will there be gluten-free/sensitive options? |
| If the price stays consistent with what the PTO charged,I would support. If it results in increased cost to support staff that is now handled by volunteers, I would not be in favor and would be happy with the 28 days. |
| No Interest. |
| Awesome idea also hoping it will be offered for lower price for low income families, previous school lunch and breakfast were free. That was awesome, was disappointed that park ridge didn't offer that to students. "free lunch" at park ridge district is that brown bag of a sandwich which is honestly food that's should not be given to children. Many schools offer free lunch and breakfast, mostly whole Chicagoland. Even growing up as a kid there was always that choice. |
| Kid friendly meals.:) |
| Use Healthy Kids Kitchen. Would not purchase lunch if not as healthy or healthier than what I would make. |
| I like the idea of hot lunch at Field, BUT if it interferes with the PE classes that use the gym then no, I wouldn't support it. My daughter always took orchestra lessons in the kitchen. Where would the lessons be if the kitchen was used? |
| none |
| If considered I would definitely sign up for the entire week. I think this would encourage students to try new foods. Plus, it is a convenience for parents. |

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| There is recycling in the district so I don't think we should be charged extra money to use recycled materials or to recycle the materials. |
| Just as middle school students use their ID to pay, it would be great for the elementary students to have the same option! I also think it would be nice if we could see what they ate for that day. |
| I fail to see why there should be a surcharge for recycling properly. Aren't there currently recycling bins throughout the school? Teachers and staff should be teaching and reinforcing what to recycle and how, just like at home. I swear this is the last region in the industrialized world that doesn't know how to recycle! |
| Please look into paying for this possible online, and on a regular basis. I think even people would volunteer to help with this. Though we are thankful for the PTO offering this program in the past, I've always felt logistically, the payment, scheduling, reminders and such could be handled better online. |
| Would buy more often if the options were healthier eg no juice option, no cookies, less processed foods etc. |
| Long over due. |
| Our family would not use this service, as we do not get hot lunch currently, even though I do volunteer both for pizza and and hot lunch day. One concern is the service provider entering through the back doors of the school. Would they have to come in through the office and provide ID's as our security policy mandates? Currently, our hot lunch providers unload in the rear doors and I'm not sure they go through the security process. |
| It really can not that expensive to invest in dishwashing and reusable dishes. It is such a waste and we could do more to invest in the future of our planet (and of our children). Also, I would be interested in this if there are actually well-rounded and healthy options available. I dislike the pizza fundraiser a great deal as pizza is such an unhealthy choice, especially if done weekly. |
| None |
| Would prefer organic food if possible |
| I would greatly appreciate a program like this and I feel that our district is in the minority for not having one - I applaud the PTO/A for doing what they have done to date. It is really hard to come up with a healthy lunch variety and a "hot" meal is always welcome. Anything that can be done to make the payment process easier, such as purchasing a lunch card (swiped every time it is used) that a parent can add funds to every time it falls below a set amount - ie \$10. This allows for tremendous flexibility. |
| At our previous school, they sent out a calendar a month before with the next month's lunch schedule and we had to choose the lunches we wanted and pay. |
| Yay, and about time :) |
| I enjoy the opportunity to help serve at lunch time and have been doing so for 4 years. I would like to see that option continue. |
| Non pork menu |
| Please balance the meals with tasty fruits and vegetables, such as apples, pears, bananas, oranges, corn, green beans, etc. |
| Please consider Halal/Zabiha and Koshered options. |
| Can you go with an organic lunch service? Or at least a company that doesn't use GMOs, preservatives or artificial ingredients? |
| Hire staff to work lunch, so parents do not have to volunteer. |
| We have not ordered hot lunches before so I'm not sure how the ordering works. However we would be more likely to order hot lunches if we could pick the dates we wanted individually, as opposed to having to pick a group at a time. (picky eater!) Paying a month or two at a time would be fine as long as we knew the menus ahead of time. |
| according to our kids - quicker service - they stand in line for 15 minutes? |
| Since question #3 had no choice of "0" days I wanted to mention that I am not interested in hot lunch for my son. Thanks you! |

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| I think the quality and choices of the food is important to consider. As well as where it will be prepared and if transported will the food be warm enough. There still can be waste even if planned how will you account for that. While I support the refunds for my child being absent the food is prepared assuming the student will be present how will you pay for this. I do think is the case of field trips that could be another matter and planned for. I currently work in a school that uses Quest Food services and we are very happy with the quality of the food and choices they offer. |
| we would like the option to choose how many days a week a student can get hot lunch. |
| I can't believe that it would cost 50 cents per lunch to provide a recycling option for lunch. We have this nice district, but for some reason, being able to provide a hot lunch option seems to be so confusing for the district. Seriously, this is a basic process. Schools everywhere else have figured this out and do it well. I think the PTA's need to be taken out of the equation altogether. Lunch supervision also seems to be a struggle for the district. Supervision is understaffed and unsupported by administration. The district should also re-evaluate the hour long lunch hour. This hour seems to benefit the staff more than the students. Forty minutes for recess is just asking for trouble. This is wasted instructional time. |
| The questions above required me to answer how many days we would purchase, but 0 was not an option. Outside of pizza, we would not purchase lunch. I feel lunches from home provide the healthiest option. |
| Pizza day and the hot lunch served currently is too expensive to pay for per semester. If the children could pay daily or weekly it would be easier to afford, although this probably isn't a problem for most of the XXXXXX that live in the area. |
| All existing "paid" lunch ladies at XXXX must be REMOVED and replaced with nice kid friendly types. |
| you did not provide the choice of ZERO days per week; this will skew results. |
| Full day kinder so these students can stay for lunch as well |
| Offer pizza no more than once a month. Weekly pizza is very unhealthy. |
| I would be very interested in the hot lunch option, as long as there was a vegetarian option. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense for my child. |
| While my biggest concern is a healthy well balanced lunch my child's biggest concern is taste. Is it possible that a lunch program could be created with both in mind? |
| The lunch should have good nutrition and also be tasty to kids. |
| In addition to our D64 children, we have one child at Mary Seat. The hot lunch vendor there is excellent. We order one month in advance and are credited for any days absent. There are 3 choices each day (1 salad option and two different entrees), and you can order as many or as few days as you like. If you pursue a professional hot-lunch program, I'd suggest asking Julie Due (MSW principal) for the name of that company and her impression from an administrative perspective. FWIW, my picky-eater child says the food is delicious. |
| Yes don't make me order lunch a month in advance. I do enjoy paying for the pizza a semester at a time. But otherwise my kids would miss out because I missed a deadline of the 27th of the month? It was crazy last year.. I would like some flexibility with maybe needing the hot lunch one month and not as much the next month. I also do not have time to volunteer to server the lunches at Roosevelt. I use this because I work full time so once a week is nice for the kids to get a break and me from making lunch. |
| This program should be totally funded by the families that participate. We do NOT want to see an increase in our taxes to fund this program. |
| Recycling should be mandatory and should not cost extra. |
| The food waste from hot lunches is alarming. Maybe foods should be offered a la carte? |
| If feasible and whenever possible, organic food is preferred. The less processed, the better. |
| The question wasn't even addresses as to whether or not we would take advantage of a school lunch program. We would not be interested in participating at all. |
| healthy option only please. no juice option. |
| I would only be interested in purchasing lunch if it wasn't full of chemicals and junk-I currently like the type of food served by healthy kids kitchen for example |

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| I think a hot lunch program will be great for the District. I am even willing to pay a premium for healthy, higher quality meals. The food must lean more towards freshly prepared versus highly processed. Organic would be nice, but obviously it is cost prohibitive. |
| Please provide and consider the option for the students who have food allergy or special diet such as vegetarian, peanut free/tree nuts and gluten free. Thank you |
| I would be all for it if there is enough healthy variety. |
| Need to know if vegetarian type entrees will be offered to know how many days and when to pack I unchanged or buy it... |
| Overall cost would be my biggest concern. If the ongoing cost is significantly higher than the current programs and no flexibility in days etc then I would have concerns instituting this program |
| This is a great idea and potentially simplifies the complex morning routine that each of our students have. |
| Please have lunches to be healthy (includes vegetables and fruits) and sensitive to food allergies. |
| If a family is on government help, such as food stamps, health insurance, would there be any help in the cost for lunch program? |
| I am very much in favor of the District providing a hot lunch program! Wish it had been done years ago! |
| Focus on good health and nutrition and applaud kids for healthy choices! |
| would like nutritional information on food that is being offered, is this available? |
| I would prefer that this is not handled by parent volunteers |
| The pizza fundraiser is important to keep. Offering other hot lunch options is a luxury. It already costs \$3.75 plus tax for our current hot lunch program. If it is mandated by district 64, would they hire additional lunch staff to staff this program rather than depend on volunteers? |
| Daily hot lunch would be such a wonderful idea! |
| no |
| What efforts will be made to help the kids have good healthy choices for lunch? |
| Love pizza day. HKk just okay a bit pricey and food not great. |
| When I volunteer for hot lunch it is difficult to prepare all of the lunches for the students in that short amount of time, therefore students are often waiting longer, and may not have as much time to eat their meal. |
| great idea. Also because a number of kids still bring food allergens with to school, like peanut butter sandwiches etc. This will eliminate that problem |
| Food safety/sanitation must be a priority - including for the volunteers who serve lunch. |
| Think this is a great idea. |
| I have heard good things about the food at Emerson and would definitely support more hot lunch days. It would be great to take this off the plates of the PTAs as well. It's a lot of work for them to get volunteers. And I'm excited to keep the pizza day. :) Thank you for asking for feedback on this topic! |
| Please continue to make the lunches as healthy as possible |
| I like daily pay because there would not be refund if absent. However, a lunch card may be ideal, where you load money on-line on to it and they can use it towards lunches instead of having to handle and collect cash. |
| While we like the hot lunch program, we do not always purchase as there are certain items our child will not eat. The same applies with the pizza fundraiser. We participated for one month last year, but the food was thrown away, so we stopped ordering. We do appreciate the flexibility of purchasing as many or as few lunches based on the menu selections - rather than a set meal plan. This allows for less wasted food. |
| There needs to be a way to find a healthy school lunch for less than \$3.50 a day. Based on the portions and the amount of food ordered, it is still too expensive. Other affluent school districts in the north shore offer healthy lunches near the \$2 mark. |
| This survey did not give the option of 0 days and I would participate 0 days. What a waste of time and money. Let's work on real issues instead of creating distractions. |
| Healthy foods and try to keep processed foods to a minimum. |
| Please offer healthy meal options for the main entree. |

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| Instead of recycling, use "real" plates and utensils that are washed. |
| I suggest strongly that be introduced to middle school as well. As long as is healthy lunch, parents are all for it. Trust me. We want the best for our kids no matter the age. Thanks. |
| Children could supply their own plates and utensils and bring them home for cleaning. |
| I need to more about the food offerings...will anything be organic? Not sold until I know about where the food is coming from. |
| None at this time |
| My children currently enjoy the taste and quality of the food provided by Healthy Kids Kitchen. Something comparable with perhaps vegetables offered as well might offer better success of the program. |
| Approve of recycling, but 50 cents per day per student to put plastic utensils in a separate bin is too much!!! Do it like we all do at home. Plastic here, garbage here! |
| Keep pricing reasonable, make ordering convenient, easy for kids. I value this service, it makes it especially convenient for working parents. Thank you! |
| Lunches would need to be healthy - minimally processed in order for us to participate. |
| I like to ability to pick and choose meals. I would not want an all or nothing type program. |
| My son has food allergies. He is allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, eggs and potatoes. Given that the foods does not contains the allergens listed, I would be more than happy to order the hot meals. Also, I would definitely need a list of the ingredients for the meals that will be provided. |
| Is it a possibility for students to bring in their lunch box a plate, fork and spoon that can be brought back home and cleaned by the parent? |
| I pay for 2 kids milk for the entire year, and then twice a week or more for hot lunches with a drink, that is almost paying 50% more for an unnecessary drink. This part needs to be reconsidered and will affect if I buy lunch or make kid's lunch like I used to. That sustainability 50 cent per meal times each order is a ridiculous amount of income that I'm sure is not needed to properly recycle. Thank you. |
| Right now you can only pay for Healthy Kids Kitchen with a checking account, please make the hot lunch available to pay with a debit or credit card, it so much more convenient, thanks! |
| Would not find this beneficial. The risk of wasting a lot of food too high. |
| Food offered should be nutritious and parents should be able to decide based on menu options. If menu could be posted weekly then elections and payment preference would be the same. Also, nutrition information should be available. |
| Some parents will decline due to financial considerations. I would suggest establishing a lunch assistance program as well for those kids. It could be donation based through the PTA or funded as part of the program through slightly increased lunch fees. |
| Kids friendly age appropriate lunch options preferred. Healthy kids kitchen menus have the right idea but unfortunately many kids don't like how it tastes. |
| I would prefer to pay for lunch not more than a couple times in the year to minimize the number of payments. I am excited that we are considering full time lunch program as I am a working mom and could use the convenience. We should employ workers for lunch instead of getting volunteers. |
| About time! |
| Daily hot lunch, with balanced diet, would be a tremendous convenience for parents and a health benefit to kids. This would be fantastic! |
| It would be helpful to have a reminder email sent to those who have ordered in the past that the food ordering deadline is approaching and a link to order. |
| No |
| Flawed survey. No option for zero. There was never a need for the hot lunches before. Why now? We don't find it necessary nor desirable. |
| I would pay more for healthy meals; I don't want McDonalds like lunches every day |
| Would there be financial assistance/free or reduced lunch program offered in the event that this project starts? There are many families that would benefit from this availability. |
| Allergy considerations |

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| The food that is currently served on Thursdays at Field is of good quality so I would like to see the same quality with a district option. |
| If your intent is to assess the level of "interested" from the parents/guardians in the district on this issue as "stated" in the intro. Then this survey is not allowing that data to be gathered in all fairness. People who are not interested "at all" in purchasing hot lunch cannot even have their vote accounted for. The information here will then only appear as 100% of the community has "buy in" to this proposal. The only reason I chose "1 day" is so I can be allowed to share my concerns! Please STRIKE my choice from your data. This survey needs to be revised (in presentation, wording, and intent) if you want to present accurate information to The Board of Education - of what the community really thinks. |
| My suggestion is to ensure variety of healthy food choices. |
| It would be great to have hot lunch offered everyday. It gives relief to moms working and short on time to get lunch ready every day. |
| There should not be an extra cost for recycling, this should be standard practice. |
| If the renovations and supplies do not have recycling and environmentally sustainable practices involved, I will not support such a program and will fight against the financial and moral cost to our community. In this day and time, it would be immoral to generate additional trash without a strong recycling program in place. Even one lunch program could have a huge impact both positive or negative on our community. Please do what is truly in the the best interest of the children you serve. Just providing a hot lunch without taking the environment in mind would hurt our community. I would be happy to support a lunch program with a strong sustainability plan. |
| I think this is a great idea, especially if there are also healthier and diverse options throughout each week. |
| My only concern would be food allergies. Currently the food is safe for my daughter with peanut and tree nut food allergies. I hope she would continue to be able to buy hot lunches. |
| The students should have an account so it's easier for the parents and student to have money in their account. |
| It would be a great help for parents !!!! |
| There should have been an option for not interested in a hot lunch program |
| Healthier options should be available. Good tasting fruits and vegetables that kids are likely to eat. Lower carbohydrate options might be also considered. |
| No juice and no chocolate milk; limit sugars |
| We would need complete ingredient lists |
| I'd consider a slight increase in costs to use recyclable materials, but I feel that 50 cents a meal is too high. |
| List the weekly menus so we can decide which days we will pay for the hot lunch for that week |
| My kids complain that current hot lunch/pizza is often cold and unappealing by the time they get it. Also, tables used for serving food are often dirty.(Table where kids sit and eat are cleaned, but food serving tables are not) |
| The ordinance if limiting PTO/As to 28 days a year is archaic and ridiculous! Why can't this ordinance be changed to be more flexible for the schools? The run around and hassle from the PR Health Dept. Is silly. PR is a small community if 38,000, why is it this difficult to find a solution to hot lunch in our schools? Parents are voters and tax payers. Can't the ordinance be altered so PTOs aren't in jeopardy of limiting there pizza days- which raise funds for OUR children and OUR schools. Why not look at amending the ordinance and let the PTOs handle their own hot lunch programs? Plus there is talk/rumor that the PTOs would have to pay (fir kitchen updates??) to have this program.WHY would we pay a company to come to our schools and make money? This process needs a clearer explanation to ALL parents. I'm sure if you asked in this survey,"Who would participate in hot lunch IF your school's PTO had to PAY \$ X" your survey results would be very different. I hope there will be a public discussion of this. As an involved and supportive parent of D64, I welcome a reply. <i>(NAME AND CONTACT INFO HAS BEEN OMITTED)</i> |
| Would be very nice. The food options from Healthy Kids Kitchen are tasty, diverse and healthy. Hopefully it would be comparable. |
| My child would not be participating in such a program as my husband and I make her lunch so that we can provide organic and wholesome meals for her. I had to fill out questions 3 & 4, but they do not apply. |

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| I would only have my child participate if the meals were healthy. |
| Wonderful idea as long as food is healthy. Detailed menus should be provided (i.e., specify fruit and vegetable, not just entree). |
| Healthier choices than pizza or highly processed products |
| Sounds good. Thank you for your efforts. |
| I did not enjoy the healthykidskitchen. I did not care about the food. It was also inconvenient the payment system. I would prefer to be able to buy it through REVTRAK as everything else. I would also to consider pay a little more for better food. Definitely I would prefer hot lunch for my child. As a working mother this is very convenient. |
| The healthiness of the options would be a primary factor to drive our participation. |
| You dont offer the option of not ordering hot lunch at all, need to consider that too |
| We would like to know that the food provided would be healthy and not high sodium, fast food. |
| Just make certain to have the ingredients listed clearly as many kids have allergies to contend with. Thanks. |
| I would want to taste the food before committing. Also due to heating limitations I question the availability of viable choices. |
| The food should be fairly plain and what most kids would eat...no fish...not spicy pork or sausage. |
| It would be extremely disappointing if a hot lunch option were to disappear. Even 2-3 days a week is better than never! Plus it allows the kids a variety of food options vs the same thing every day! My kids LOVE hot lunch day!!!! |
| Can we change the pizza supplier. Many kids complain about the pizza that it is not good. My kid told me this year that he does not want pizza this year be oust it is not good. |
| Continued Peanut/ nut allergy accommodations would be a concern with the new provider. Healthy kids kitchen was great. Thanks so much to the PTA for offering this. We hope some hot lunch will continue to be offered. |
| I really like the Healthy Kids Kitchen- I would like to continue this program. I feel like the food is made from fresh ingredients and we support a local family. |
| If there is a way to make sure my child cannot chose sweetened or chocolate milk, that would be great. |
| Need to be able to provide a complete ingredient list in advance for every item being served so that allergies can be checked (not just say it is nut free). One of the problems with the lunch now is that you order in advance but they don't know what fruit will be included and my daughter is allergic to some of the fruit served so she can never have the lunch since I can't check allergies at the time of ordering. |
| if we miss the cutoff date to pay, we are able to pay late and still get meals for the remaining time in the month, even if it does not start until the 2nd week. |
| What are the entree options and how are you focused on making them healthy and tasty? There are companies, like US Foods, that are working with school systems to provide healthy options that taste good and kids look forward to - this keeps a consistent flow of student's ordering because they like their options. Up-charging for the "sustainability" part seems interesting when the paper recycling bins in the school lots blow paper all over the neighborhood littering - the recycling has to be executed to make it worth the extra \$.50 |
| I would like to see organic milk offered as an option. I would be willing to pay more if necessary. |
| The current hot lunch, except for the pizza, is not at all appetizing. I'm not been particularly fond of the PTO running such a program--it needs to be fully professionally managed from start to finish, and much cleaner than it currently it is. No disrespect, but the PTO is not equipped to be a professional food distributor. |
| I have many but they are too long to write. |
| Using BPA free containers |
| There has been issues in the news recently with school lunches not having fresh ingredients going so far to boycott it as substandard to prison food. I'd like to address these concerns and see what recourse is available |

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| please offer whole milk. the vitamins in milk need the fat in order to be absorbed by the body. |
| My main question would be related to the ordering process and timing. We have a very picky eater and would not want to be "locked" in to a certain number of days/wk if she won't eat what's provided. |
| Yes!!!!!! Please do this! I am always out of something bread, drink, lunch meat, in the morning ;) |
| I would prefer to have kosher food served. |
| There are corn based "plastics" that can be thrown away since they break down naturally, which might be easier than managing recycling |
| Ability to offer and charge parents fir hot lunch same day if a child forgets to bring lunch or order lunch. |
| Efficient distribution |
| Please consider using Healthy Kids Kitchen as your vendor. They have high quality food and are already serving 4 of the 5 schools. The program at Lincoln is terrible, and I would not order lunch if you select that same vendor. The food quality of HKK is extremely high and the owner is a Park Ridge parent. I would strongly recommend speaking with them during your vendor process. |
| This is long overdue. We would totally support this for those parents who want to pay for the lunch. It's no more than Healthy Kids kitchen. |
| Fully sustainable (reusable) plates and utensils that children can be taught to wash. Ingredient sourcing: concerns over preservatives, antibiotics, hormones and GMO foods. |
| Healthy food choices would be critical to the success of the program. |
| Organic milk and as least processed food as possible. I would pay more for that. |
| Would love it if the lunch program continues/was expanded - we use it often and it's been great! |
| I would like nutritious hot lunches. |
| I pay \$4 for a lunch at St. Andrews in Park Ridge (that does not come with milk) and I still have to send extra food for my 5 year old. That seems like a lot of money for a quantity of food that can't even fill up a 5 year old girl. This is the only reason why I checked "no" in #5. An even more \$\$ lunch would get pricey for me. I am not affluent. |
| Installing a dish washer at each school that can wash utensils rather than recycling. |
| Keep the food prepared plainly with sauces optional or on the side. |
| My child loves healthy kids kitchen and would be happy if services continued from there. Also, I would not participate if I had to pay in advance for lunch. I would rather there be a lunch card that money is deducted from when my child gets lunch for each day. |
| Healthy kids kitchen used at Roosevelt was generally not liked by my kids. Odd choices and often bland taste. They had very few lunches my kids would eat. |
| \$3.50 is excessive and from experience at the high school level does not provide a substantial amount of food to satisfy the growing needs of a child. \$2.50 should be the cost to maintain affordability as well. PTO and the family who provides this pizza is making a good profit from Franklin. |
| I would be open to hot lunch everyday, but it depends upon the menu. I'm very pro environmentally friendly policies and healthy food options. I love this idea. Thank you for considering it. |
| How will this lunch program be funded? Will it take away any programs that are currently being funded? |
| If the lunches were healthy and kid friendly but also filling we would likely use it every day. |
| Provide organic options |
| Some school have something like debit cards for kids(parents can add money for the card in school)....that way kids can pay for the food daily. |
| We would only purchase the lunches if they are healthy - no processed, sugary foods, preferably organic. We are not interested in cheap, unhealthy cafeteria food. Quality is the main consideration. |
| My main concern would be the nutritional content of the lunch. I know school lunches can be high in fat and preservatives to save cost, which is why I like the control of packing a healthy lunch. The money would not deter me from ordering, it would be the quality of the food. |
| I think this is a GREAT idea!!! |
| Love the idea of a daily lunch program. |
| For \$3.50, I would be skeptical if the food would be of any quality. |

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| I think there needs to be more parent volunteers to keep the hot lunch program successful. If you child participates you would be expected to volunteer a few times a year. I think that would be fair way to handle the volunteer duties. |
| It would be great if there is an option to pay 6 months in advance . Also it would be great if Field School would have hot lunch more then 1 day. |
| More vegetarian options. |
| I think this is an excellent idea! As a working parent, I often find it difficult to make a quality lunch for my child the night before. My child always looks forward to hot lunch because of the variety- and it's a warm meal. |
| The only complaint that my child has is that there is only one line to get there food. He would like to see a couple of lines opened so they don't have to waste time out of their lunch time. Thanks |
| Some of the portions are very small. My kids sometimes complain they don't get enough of the main dish. Also, the cookies tend to be hard. I serve lunch and notice many kids throw them out. |
| I have volunteered for lunch days and observe a TON of good food going into the garbage because kids simply do not eat what they are served. Can you consider giving the children a choice of what they want and have an assembly line like cafeteria style. Allowing children to chose what they would eat. Maybe bill the parents weekly or each child has a cash card to swipe to pay for their food. Not sure if the kids would loose the card, though. |
| Willing to pay more for healthier and higher quality food |
| A daily lunch program that is available regardless of if you signed up ahead of time would make my life so much simpler. It would be very welcome! |
| Most school lunches that I have seen are pretty low quality. I am only interested in high quality food. Fresh fruit, no fruit in syrup/juice; high grade meat, no nitrates, low sugar, no artificial sweeteners, etc. I would like the opportunity to view/sample food prior to committing to it... |
| My son has severe peanut and tree nut allergies. In order for him to participate I would need to know that the hot lunches were completely nut free and safe for him to eat. How will you address food allergy issues? |
| I would be concerned mostly about the quality of the food. Is it truly healthy, real food, or pasta/pizza/added sugar/processed junk. The fact that no questions address health/quality is making me skeptical already. Pizza is fine once a week but the other options should be healthy. |
| Healthy food such as whole grain, lean protein, fruits and vegetables, low sugar. |
| You should probably research other districts in our area. I know Glenview allows the parents to put a certain amount of money on a card, like a debit card and the kids use the same card throughout the year. This way the parents do not need to choose lunches all they need to do is refill the card with money every month or every other month. The parents and children see the menu on a monthly basis. It is distributed on the school website. The debit cards stay with the individual teacher for each student rather than the kids putting it in their backpacks and losing it. |
| Would want meals to have high nutritional value |
| I am concerned that there would be more food waste in a hot lunch program than when kids bring their lunch. |
| My only concern is question #5. if lunch is 3.50 and we pay an additional .50 for each lunch. Then it is now 4 dollars which is an increase of 14% just to separate the garbage. Seems the % increase does not justify this. |
| Please, please, please do this! Working parents LOVE hot lunch day! So do the kids. |
| I would like to see only healthy meals offered. |
| Must be healthy options or will not participate. Love Healthy Kids Kitchen. |
| Please give hot lunch 5 days per week |
| this would be a great value add! |
| We are not interested In this program. |
| I would agree to hot lunch only if it's USDA ORGANIC, NON GMO VERIFIED, GRASS FED!!!! |

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| A menu that provides 2 choices for the day? Healthy options are best and an option to cancel in advance for either credit or refund. thank you. |
| I don't feel the current hot lunch that is offered is worth the price and often not that healthy. I will only buy hot lunch for my children if I feel it is healthy and a good value. |
| It would be wonderful if the food options were available to try before committing to the food choices. We would also like to pay a little bit more for the best quality food possible. Sometimes mass produced food can lose their quality and appeal. |
| Although my son is a 5th Grader and won't be attending Washington next year, I feel that this would be a huge benefit for Elementary students and parents/guardians. It would be so very helpful when planning each day and keeping the food fresh. My daughter is in middle school and I love the fact that I can add money to the account whenever I would like to and I know that I am definitely not forgetting lunch. |
| Thank you for taking hot lunch into consideration at a district level. It is nice to have a hot lunch option for my children. |
| No |
| I would like to see healthy lunch options. Organic foods when possible. Dye free and no high fructose corn syrups, etc. |
| Hot Lunch on Tuesdays & Pizza on Thursdays is a nice treat. We would not participate in a daily lunch. |
| The kids don't need this - let them bring their own food to school. More and more parents are using recyclable lunch containers. I'm sure somewhere this program is cost lots and lots of money to implement. Save the money for education needs. Parents can make healthy lunches for their children. |
| List menu choices in advance |
| I recommend that all lunches be organic, low carb and include steamed or raw veggies and fruit. |
| how do we address shortages of volunteers for lunch on a daily basis? a fee included in the annual school fee that could supplement volunteers? |
| My concern is the type of entrees that will be provided. |
| Most moms I know would like a 5 day a week program. I would be willing to volunteer 1x a week if it meant that daily food service would be provided. With working families, it just makes sense. |
| The infrequency of my interest in purchasing hot lunch is largely driven by the variety and quality offerings of the food. As of now, I think the hot lunch being offered is barely mediocre. I would order more often if the quality improved. |
| I would like to see healthy options and limit sweet lunches loaded with sugar, f.ex: pancakes w/ syrup, french toast w/ syrup, etc. I would gladly pay more for a healthier option. |
| Please keep the cost as low as possible. It would be very convenient to have a hot lunch option, but the cost adds up and many parents might decide to pack a lunch that costs less if the cost of hot lunch rises over time. |
| healthy food with a treat |
| My concern is that it would be an additional expense for the PTO/As to do this method. I presume there is no additional expense because you haven't mentioned one in the survey? |
| thank you for all your hard work in investigating this service for us. :) |
| I would want to know what kind of food would be served. Will it be cheeseburgers, fries, chicken nuggets, nitrate-filled hot dogs, or will it be nutritious, preservative-free, organic, etc? I do not want my children eating unhealthy foods and have heard that at Lincoln, students can buy fries everyday if they want. Seems absurd if the District is supposedly concerned with healthy eating and won't even allow treats at holiday parties. |
| As a working parent, hot lunch offered every day would make my life SO much easier! And my kids would really love the variety in the menu v. what I pack in their lunches today. PLEASE add this next school year!!!! |
| I'm supportive of this as long as the cost (including overhead) is paid by the user and/or funded by grants from Federal Government. No portion of the cost for this should be borne by local property taxpayers. |

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| I would love to have this option. I am a single mother. Not making my daughters lunch every day or shopping for it would provide more time spent with her. |
| Very good idea |
| Where and by whom will the food be prepared? What sort of meal choices would be available for \$3.50 or less a day- we have had much higher prices for PTO hot lunches but with good quality food? What sort of variety would there be- how often would the menu rotate? There are more than 28 weeks of school in the year and therefore the PTO would not be able to have a pizza day once a week throughout the year (I calculate that it doesn't even stretch to Spring Break if it starts right away at the beginning of the year). How would the district collect orders/payments (online and with credit cards)? How would the students check in for their lunches? Would it be an ID card swiping program, a name on a checklist, etc? My students participate in the milk program that is already available daily so I wouldn't be interested in paying twice for a beverage if I am buying a hot lunch. Who would be serving my children lunch? |
| Provide the option to sign up for the year. |
| Will hope to have choice of entrée in case of allergy or preference issue. Hope it's healthy and please watch for the calories intake amount. |
| I have concerns over food allergens (i.e. nuts) and how the food would be prepared. |
| My child stopped doing the hot lunch option at school because it took too long to get served. He'd rather bring his lunch and have more time to eat and socialize. He does do pizza day and would continue next year. Not sure he would want the hot lunch. |
| Having volunteered as a lunch server, I'm concerned about the amount of waste from hot lunches. I've seen children eat 1-2 items and dump the rest. Also, my child is picky and won't eat a lot of "kid food" like mac and cheese or hot dogs, so I struggle finding hot items she will eat from the current Field menu. |
| The current hot lunch program is a very ineffective and cumbersome complicated mess, particularly ordering it online. You must streamline and make it easier on parents. |
| Just make really easy to access information. I still can't figure out how to order milk. |
| Have a non meat based meal everyday so anyone restricted to eat certain food will be able to participate |
| Foods should be healthy, no fett, no sweet. Thanks |
| Be sure lunches are prepared without preservatives, low sugar and salt, lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. |
| It will be a big help on my part if the school will offer hot lunch everyday.Thanks. |
| Great plan, allergic reactions will be avoided, since kids bring nut sandwiches to school, parents will save time that can be spent on kids. I don't mind paying extra for paid supervision |
| no |
| More food choices |
| The meals provided need to be more nutritious. Currently many of the meals are not offering a good balance of vegetables, fruit and proteins. I would prefer NOT to have fried foods and pancakes offered |
| A Gluten free option would be nice but I do realize logistically that could be quite a hassle. |
| One of my children has a severe peanut/tree but allergy. We would like to feel safe and know that she could participate. We also feel it is important that the lunches provided are nutritious and varied. |
| I applaud the district for trying to offer a hot lunch program since the PTO program has become more complicated. Losing the hot lunch would be a big loss for the kids. |
| It would be great if all schools in the district had Kiddie Kingdom for their pizza day! |
| I am most interested in keeping pizza day. I'm don't feel strongly about providing lunch other days. Tastes and preferences vary so much. Pizza is safe. Subway would be another good option. Beyond that I'm not sure how much I will participate. Depends on what is offered and if my child would like it. |
| It is very important to our family to have food that is made with quality ingredients. A list of ingredients in the meals should be available. |
| Organic would be awesome!! My daughter has a peanut allergy so I'd want to make sure the meals were nut free. |
| The current payment method with the outsourced hot lunch program is terrible. No ability to schedule a semester at a time and payment options are not modern. |

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| Somehow monitor what is actually being eaten and make changes as needed. It's better to not serve it instead of seeing it all go in the garbage. |
| I find hot lunch expensive, especially because my child never has enough time to finish her lunch. |
| Healthy drink options |
| Have a option for a drink (milk) with hot lunch. |
| I would prefer that juice not be an option. My kids like the meals from the current vendor. |
| the ability to also purchase lunch THE DAY OF would be great: for example, this would help on those days when a family is running late and packing a lunch is hard to squeeze into time crunched morning |
| Love this idea, a huge help to working parents! |
| Sustainability is great, but \$.50/meal seems like a LOT! Also, I'm not sure what is different about this versus our currently Healthy Kids Kitchen lunch catering service? |
| Most food services are not healthy, so I let my children get th as a treat. I would not encourage expansion of an unhealthy program. |
| We will only order the meals if they are healthy. I would rather pay slightly more for whole food. |
| vendor considerations. The vendor when XXXX volunteered as the head of the program was very good (according to my 2 kids that were in the school at the time). |
| I definitely would go with at least one day per week and would likely consider more days per week but will depend on what is offered |
| "hot" lunch isn't the appeal - i would want cold veggies - carrots fresh but - not baby carrots, celery, broccoli, cucumbers, etc. |
| would definitely be interested in a hot lunch program |
| Food service at elementary schools should be a district provided service and not PTO managed or driven. Kudos for moving back to this model. |
| Do you consider a vegetarian/ vegan menus? |
| It is a good idea as long as the Pto doesn't try to rip us off like with pizza day. They should not profit on something a child needs anyway. And why \$3.50? other districts offer a daily lunch program for \$2.75 and it's just as healthy. Who would make the food? Will it be generic? My child loves healthy kitchen, he actually eats different foods because of them, I would hate for you to change it. |
| You should be recycling already and shouldn't need to add costs or train students to do this. |
| Pay per semester instead of monthly. |
| We 100% back a daily hot lunch program. I volunteer on a regular basis (at least once a week), and it is cumbersome to carve out more time when other people do not volunteer. I definitely understand that it is difficult to volunteer, especially since more and more need to have both parents work day to day. With that said, it would be great to have a lunch service whereby parents do not need to volunteer. Even if it means paying an extra cost to pay employees to serve lunch, I believe it will benefit all, and many will agree it is a wise decision to switch over to such a service. |
| To eliminate the need for paying in advance and being penalized for absences. I believe it would be nice to have a prepaid card system (i.e. 25 lunches per card) that would need to be refilled once emptied, or, so that cards aren't being refilled randomly throughout the course of the year, there is a prepaid card each month and the # of lunches on the card is specific to each child, each month and paid for on RevTrac and the # of lunches is determined at time of purchase. This way parents can take in to account vacations, sick days, children not liking the meal, etc. and not pay for everyday in a month. The card could be electronic or truly an old fashioned punch card. |
| I just hope there is no junk food |
| My daughter is a vegetarian. Would that be too difficult to address? |

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| As has been the problem for years, the time given to students to eat is way too short. With hot food distribution, it is even shorter. I would love for the district to find donate 10 minutes of the academic day to be added to the lunch hour. Currently, the time allotted is unhealthy for eating a decent meal. When you add in attendance/lining up, hand washing and switching to/from recess, the children are truly cheated in eating like reasonable people. Maybe less food would be thrown out if they actually had time to eat. Nothing like biting into a banana only to be told time is up, now throw it away. |
| Your survey doesn't discuss if offering hot lunch would cost the district money to upgrade facilities and I so, do parents think that is a worthwhile expenditure. |
| I would love to have the option to pay for entire year in one payment. |
| I think regardless of whether hot lunch is offered, children need to be less rushed. Either extend the lunch period or create a flexible system that allows children to eat for longer if necessary. I think that time would be better spent trying to figure out how to teach children healthier eating habits through a gardening program than providing hot lunch. It is also my preference if the time became a teaching moment for manners and socializing with others while eating. Also, while recycling is preferable to landfill, I would rather if the utensils and trays were washable and reused. I may not purchase hot meals if it is just recycling, because right now my child's lunches are completely waste free and that would be a step backward. |
| Healthy and popular choices |
| I think the most important thing is that it can be planned/paid for in advance. If parents are having to stay on top of this on a regular basis that will become a burden. Also, the food needs to be healthy with limited additives, sugars, etc. If it is not healthy, I would rather pack the lunch myself. |
| Healthy but tasteful choices should be offered. |
| It would be nice to have a program that can end the segregation of children with nut allergies. My daughter's allergies are not severe, so on the one hand, she would prefer to integrate with the fuller tables, as recess becomes an extension of lunch, and kids tend to hang out with those with whom they eat. There is only one other student at the nut free table, though, and she doesn't want to leave him alone so she elected to stay with him. However, I know she is missing out on an opportunity to mix and mingle with more students. |
| Only one suggestion: we were not able to participate in this year's hot lunch because of the date being changed from Tuesday and Thursdays, to Wednesdays and Fridays. The reason is because our children fast meat during Wednesday and Fridays for religious reasons. If there was a way to have a vegetarian option on those two days of the week (scrambled eggs, French toast, pasta marinara, etc.) that would be fantastic. I hope parents decide to go with this program, it would be a great options, especially at Franklin. |
| I indicated that I would be interested in hot lunch up to 4 days a week, however, that is dependent upon what is on the menu. I would like the flexibility to select which days based on the menu that my child would choose to have hot lunch taking into consideration my children's eating preferences and the healthiness of the choices. It would also be nice for nutrition and ingredient information to be provided about the menu choices. |
| keep the price point reasonable no nasty tacos my kids hate those! |
| Flexibility in the sign up process and the ability to do so in advance |
| Change the pizza day vendor |
| Food should not be wasted. Be sure the lunch offerings are "common" kid friendly but healthy options. |
| As working parents of multiple children, this service would be greatly appreciated. The extra 20-30 minutes to prepare meals everyday on top of work, DAILY homework assistance, and other responsibilities is already overwhelming. |
| menu variety for younger kids who are a bit fussy and picky. portions to meet their time to eat and price to reflect those portions. online ordering would be helpful St. Paul of the cross uses smart lunch you can order up to 2 days prior, they send reminders and you can check to see what you ordered. |
| The type of meals and nutritional value would be important in decision making. |

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| It was not clear from the survey, but I would hope that we would be able to order only the lunches that we believe our children would eat (as opposed to just signing up carte blanche for the lunch program). If not, we may not participate depending on the lunch choices available. |
| My son loves the hot lunch program. However I do not favor having only one option to pay. I feel it is unfair to charge us a two dollar convince fee. Please change this option. |
| I coordinate the hot lunch program at XXXXX I think this sort of program is long over due. The popularity of ordering hot lunch has been increasingly growing, and we find it extremely difficult to find volunteers. Most of my preparation for the upcoming program is during the summer, as most of the PTO's will probably concur on. It would be appreciated if there were to be a change, for this change to be communicated before the end of this school year so we can plan ahead for what we need next year. Thank you. (NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OMITTED) |
| daily lunch would be a big improvement |
| I think it would be great to have daily hot lunch, would it be covered for free lunch program for low income families? |
| So you're still planning to 'recycle' utensils and plates on a daily basis? That's incredibly irresponsible. I would not participate in hot lunch on a regular basis if you are using disposable utensils and plates. |
| No thanks |
| It's hard to answer these without knowing the price, menu, etc. For example, the number of days a week we do it will depend on the menu and whether or not my child likes it. |
| The meals need to be tailored to children that are typically picky eaters, for example today Washington offers some sort of turket dish but it is slathered in BBQ sauce, my child loves turkey but will not eat BBQ sauce. keeping it simple yet not balnd and boring is not that hard to do. |
| How do you ensure the hot food stays hot? |
| Q.3 in this survey did not offer a "0" option. Very excited for the district to handle and offer this great service. |
| how would kids pay? swipe card? prepay? cash? |
| Please keep pizza day |
| Type of food is important. Fried food while hit is unhealthy and should not be approved. |
| I would support a fee for recycling efforts but not 50 cents a day which seems very high. |
| I would prefer if the lunches were made of high quality ingredients, void of artificial sweeteners, colors, etc. I would love to see healthy but fun options for my child. Any of the kids' favorites can be tweaked to a healthier version (baked instead of fried, whole grain pastas, etc). |
| We love the convenience of the lunch program, but have discussed literally for a couple years as to why are there NEVER once any vegetables in the hot lunch. We feel the person who picks the menu isn't considering all children. the kids enjoy the hot lunch, but hard to incorporate enough vegetables if they are carb loaded at lunch. I am surprised this is an issue, we are not in an economically depressed district. Our kids deserve us to do better nutritionally for them. |
| I would like to know menu in advance if choosing days in advance. |
| I think this is a great idea. I think it would be nice to have a uniform program across the schools and not have the responsibility rest with the PTO. I think allergies will need to be addressed, most importantly making sure the children know what is in the food so they know what they can and can't eat. |
| One of my kids would be thrilled with this. The other would not, as she has multiple food sensitivities and would likely not be able to order anything |
| Please provide information on how we can learn more about this "Park Ridge Health Department" policy change. |
| healthy options. you have theh opportunity to start this program making healthy choices, I hope that is how it will proceed. |
| Love the hot lunch idea as long as it is allergy free and healthy. Willing to pay more for something organic and healthy. |

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| This is a great idea. The line would need to be quicker than what currently is done at Field for hot lunch. My kids won't do it because they wait in line and then do not have enough time to eat. |
| Emergency lunch availability if student forgets own lunch and ability to pay after occurrence if needed |