High School Food Service Program Returning to the National School Lunch Program

Kimberly Steffy
Director of Business Services

Background

- Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, Methacton High School voluntarily went off the National School Lunch Program in order to:

  Expand offerings available to students

  Increase food service experience

  Increase participation

- Windy Hill Café opened providing students with an alternative to the traditional cafeteria setting including access to Ala Carte options in the morning and in between classes.

Performance

The Food Service program incurred operating losses during its first two years of operation, with a continued loss projected for the third year.

Year	Operating Statement	District	Aramark
2023-2024	($205,187)	($101,294)	($103,893)
2024-2025	($196,057)	($108,733)	($87,323)
2025-2026	($201,054)	($111,333)	($89,721)

Projected loss

Contributing factors include escalating food and labor costs, as well as increased participation rates, especially within the free and reduced-price student population.

Returning to the National School Lunch Program

Moving the high school back to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will result in several changes.

- Windy Hill Café will continue to operate and is expected to remain popular with sugar-free syrups, cookies will be smaller, Pizza, another popular item among students, will remain unchanged, and French fries will continue to be available.
- HS will return to offering free breakfast program for all students.
- USDA approved commodities including use of whole-grain products will replace items used on the menu.
- Aramark will continue working with district to serve healthy and nutritious meals that students will enjoy.
- District expects to return to a financially sustainable Food Service program.

Recommendation

Authorize the administration to proceed with returning the Methacton High School to the National School Lunch Program effective the earliest appropriate date, but not later than start of the 2026-2027 school year.