



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: December 8, 2011

Subject: Review and Increase of School Lunch Prices

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: December 14, 2011)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Administrative Services

Recommendation: Approve a 25 cent per meal increase to paid student lunch prices effective January 1, 2012. Approve an additional 25 cents per meal increase to paid student lunch prices effective July 1, 2012.

Background/Rationale: The district has not raised the price charged to full-priced paid student lunches since October 2000. The current lunch price is \$1.25 and \$1.75 per meal for elementary and secondary students respectively. A recent survey shows that the SCUSD rate is significantly lower than surrounding districts. Based on this survey, breakfast prices are more in line with surrounding districts and this proposal does not include breakfast prices.

Currently, the federal reimbursement rate is \$2.79 per free reimbursable meal. Keeping the paid lunch rate as close as possible to the federal reimbursement rate increases money spent on food and improves the nutritional quality of meals without subsidizing the full-priced paid student lunches.

The Healthy Foods Task Force priority on improving the nutritional quality of meals to students and to provide meals that are nutritious will be maintained and expanded with the addition of these price increases.

Financial Considerations: A 25 cent per meal increase effective January 1, 2012 will generate approximately \$65,000. An additional 25 cent per meal increase effective July 1, 2012 will generate approximately \$128,350. These funds will be used to maintain high quality nutritious meals such as the salad bars and increasing fresh and locally prepared side dishes and “cleaner” (fewer additives) labeled proteins and entrees.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 5 minutes

Submitted by: Brenda Padilla, Manager, Nutrition Services

Approved by: Patricia A. Hagemeyer, Chief Business Officer

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I. Overview/History:

Education Code 49550 requires all districts to provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal during each school day to needy students, defined as those who meet federal eligibility criteria for free and reduced price meals. In addition, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act added the requirement that each school food authority shall establish a price for paid lunches. Ideally, the price for a paid lunch should be close to the reimbursement amount from the National School Lunch program for a free and reduced lunch student which is currently \$2.79 per meal.

Lunch prices have not been increased in the district since October 2000. Our lunch prices are much lower than the current reimbursement rate for free and reduced lunch students. In addition, based on a recent survey of surrounding districts, our paid lunch prices are significantly lower than other districts.

<u>District</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
Sacramento City Unified School District	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$1.75
San Juan Unified School District	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$3.25
Elk Grove Unified School District	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$3.00
Natomas Unified School District	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$2.75
Twin Rivers Unified School District	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.50

The proposal to increase paid lunch prices by 25 cents starting on January 1, 2012 and an additional 25 cents on July 1, 2012 will still provide a lower cost meal for our paid students than surrounding districts

II. Driving Governance:

- Education Code Section 49550 states that each school district shall provide for each needy pupil one nutritionally adequate free or reduced price meal during each school day. A school district may use funds made available through any federal or state program for which the purpose includes the provision of meals to a pupil including the federal National School Lunch Program.

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III. Budget:

Nutritional standards established by Education Code and federal nutritional guidelines make it increasingly difficult to purchase higher quality foods in order to meet increased nutritional standards. The work of the Healthy Foods Task Force supports the need for nourishing, nutritious, healthy and fresh foods. The increased price effective January 1, 2012, will generate approximately \$65,000. The price increase effective July 1, 2012 will generate about \$128,350. These funds will be used to maintain and expand healthy food choices.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

Bring the Sacramento City Unified School District paid lunch prices closer to what the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides the district for the free meal reimbursement rate.

V. Major Initiatives:

Use additional funds as a source to ensure continuous, improved nutritional quality.

VI. Results:

Prices will be increased by 25 cents effective January 1, 2012 and an additional 25 cents effective July 1, 2012. Our prices will continue to be equal to or lower than surrounding districts.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Notify parents of price change after Board approval
- Review paid meal prices annually
- Continue with the work of the Healthy Foods Task Force and implement recommendations