

August 16, 2022

Expenditures continue to increase in the food service program. The district increased lunch prices by \$0.25 in 2012-13. Since that time, payroll costs increased with steps and lanes and negotiated increases, including 8% after the general fund levies passed in 2020. In addition to increased labor costs, food costs have risen. We charge \$2.25 or \$2.75 for lunch depending on the grade level of the student. The net cost of a typical school lunch is \$3.27 to \$3.85.

The district began discussing meal price increases three years ago, but put the conversation on hold during the pandemic.

Currently, there is a healthy balance in the food service fund with \$234,000. In 2020-21 we were able to pay personnel and food costs from Federal Covid funds. Last year, the school participated in the USDA free food program. The USDA, in anticipation of continued food and labor shortages, significantly increased the Federal reimbursement rates, to even more than we will be reimbursed this year, which brought in more Federal funds than ever before. The Federal reimbursement was \$526,000. The average Federal reimbursement for the prior 6 years was \$143,000 per year.

Because of increased labor and food costs and because meal prices have not been increased since 2012, we recommend the following for the 2022-23 school year.

| Category | Current Price | Recommended Price | Price Increase |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| K-6 student breakfast | \$1.25 | \$1.75 | \$0.50 |
| 7-12 student breakfast | \$1.50 | \$2.00 | \$0.50 |
| Adult breakfast* | \$2.00 | \$2.75 | \$0.75 |
| | | | |
| K-6 student lunch | \$2.25 | \$2.75 | \$0.50 |
| 7-12 student lunch | \$2.75 | \$3.25 | \$0.50 |
| Adult lunch* | \$4.00 | \$5.00 | \$1.00 |

*Adult prices set by USDA

Breakfast and lunch prices for other schools attached.

| AUGUST 2022 PRICES | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| School | Breakfast | Lunch |
| Butte | | |
| K-6 | 1.75 | 2.75 |
| 9-12 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| Charlo | | |
| K-6 | 3.50 | 3.75 |
| 9-12 | 3.75 | 4.00 |
| Columbia Falls | | |
| K-6 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| 9-12 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| Eureka | | |
| K-6 | Free | 2.25 |
| 9-12 | Free | 2.50 |
| Evergreen | | |
| K-6 | CEP* | CEP* |
| 9-12 | CEP* | CEP* |
| Florence | | |
| K-6 | 1.25 | 3.05 |
| 9-12 | 1.25 | 3.25 |
| Kalispell | | |
| K-6 | 1.25 | 2.25 |
| 9-12 | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| Missoula | | |
| K-6 | 2.00 | 2.25 |
| 9-12 | 3.00 | 3.25 |
| Polson | | |
| K-6 | 1.80 | 2.75 |
| 9-12 | 1.80 | 2.75 |
| Ronan | | |
| K-6 | CEP* | CEP* |
| 9-12 | CEP* | CEP* |
| Stevensville | | |
| K-6 | 1.85 | 3.00 |
| 9-12 | 2.20 | 3.10/3.65 |
| Whitefish | | |
| K-6 | 1.75 | 2.75 |
| 9-12 | 1.75 | 3.00 |

*Community Eligibility Provision

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| BIGFORK | | |
| K-6 | 1.25 | 2.50 |
| 9-12 | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 2012 - Last time prices were raised | | |