

## Holyoke, Haxtun contract for food services management

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Chartwells School Dining Service will handle management of food service programs for 2010-11 in a cooperative involving Holyoke and Haxtun school districts.

A cooperative was necessary to combine both districts in order to generate enough meals sold to become a viable candidate for contracting.

Details were explained at the Holyoke School Board meeting July 20.

The request for the proposal needed to be sent from one district. Haxtun felt they had the time within their business office to lead this process. As a result, Haxtun contracted with Chartwells and Holyoke School Dist. has a contract with Haxtun.

The contract with Chartwells will be on a per meal basis and guarantees neither school district will be required to transfer general fund money to the food service fund.

Supt. Bret Miles said he is very excited about this. It's been a year's worth of work and meets the board goal of not subsidizing the food service program.

Holyoke and Haxtun school districts will split the cost of a food service director and equally share in the expertise and support Chartwells provides.

Designed to boost participation, elementary students will have more than one main entree option every day, said Miles. JR/SR high students will have three or four options and will have access to a full-service salad bar daily.

Both districts will have to show they're sustainable, said Miles. If successful, the concept could be marketed to other neighboring school districts.

In addition to authorizing Supt. Miles to enter into the food management contract with Haxtun School District, the board approved meal prices for 2010-11.

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Breakfast prices will remain the same as in 2009-10, while K-6 lunch prices will increase 20 cents and 7-12 lunches will increase 25 cents. Miles noted the last time meal prices were increased was for the 2007-08 year.

Meal prices for 2010-11 are \$1.25, breakfast; \$1.75, adult breakfast; \$1.75, K-6 lunch; \$2, 7-12 lunch; and \$2.50, adult lunch.

### **Staff enthusiastic about ISTE conference**

Teachers Chandra Parker and Laura Loutensock, as well as Supt. Miles, voiced enthusiasm for the national ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) conference they attended June 28-30 in Denver.

Miles said finance director Sharon Thompson found money in professional development places to send 10 people from the district. Local attendees were fortunate to win nice technology pieces, more than compensating for the cost of the conference.

From virtual field trips to social media in the classroom to use of technology for helping boys be more engaged, the conference offered a wide range of information.

Demonstrations and significant time for questions and answers also enhanced the experience for those attending.

### **Other business**

In other business at the July 20 meeting, the Re-1J board:

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—accepted the resignation of Rebecca Helm, Family & Consumer Science teacher, effective June 29.

—approved three foreign exchange students for 2010-11: Philip Buck from Germany, Pekka Roivas from Finland and Eugenie Kamstra from Netherlands.

—noted the new meeting room for board meetings—Room #218 in the junior high.