

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

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October 24, 2008

As you are no doubt aware, the cost of food has gone up steeply over the past two years. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the price of staples such as bread, milk and cheese jumped by 17 percent in 2007. These price increases affect all of us at home and they affect the school's Food Service Program as well. Across the country school districts are faced with having to increase meal prices. Nationwide 75 percent of school districts are expected to raise lunch prices this fall.

The School Committee recently voted to institute new pricing in the Food Service Program. These new prices will go into effect on Monday, November 3, 2008. Those students who qualify for free or reduced pricing will see no change.

### **Lunch Pricing**

Increasing the lunch price by \$0.25 will help cover the actual costs of the lunch program, while enabling the Food Service Program to continue serving the variety and quality of nutritious foods our community expects.

Effective Monday, November 3, 2008 the price for lunch will be as follows:

- \$2.50 for high school and middle school lunch
- \$2.50 for elementary school lunch
- \$3.25 for adult lunch
- \$0.40 for reduced fee lunch in all schools

### **Breakfast Pricing**

Until three years ago the full price charged for breakfast in all schools was \$0.75 and the reduced price was \$0.30. Beginning in FY06 the Food Service Management Company operating our food Service Program implemented a price reduction to serve free breakfast to students in all of our schools in an attempt to increase participation. While participation rates did increase, the breakfast reimbursement received from the Federal School Lunch Program alone did not cover the cost of providing breakfast to our students.

Reinstating a nominal fee for breakfast will help to cover the actual costs of the breakfast program, while enabling the Food Service Program to offer students hot breakfast more often.

Effective Monday, November 3, 2008 the price for breakfast will be as follows:

- \$1.00 for high school and middle school breakfast
- \$0.50 for elementary school breakfast
- \$0.30 for reduced fee breakfast in all schools.

It is unfortunate that a price increase has to occur. The decision was not made lightly, knowing that food prices and indeed the cost of living in general is going up and affecting every household; however, it is necessary in order to maintain the level of nutrition and service the students deserve. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Robert Detweiler  
Director of Finance and Operations  
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