

May 24, 2011

To The School Board Members, Firth Schools Superintendent, Administration, and Firth School Patrons,

Here in Firth, our lunch program has tried to keep the price for full paid students affordable and within a reasonable range. The last year our high school students paid \$1.90 for their meal and the elementary children paid \$1.60. This comparable to the prices of the regions other schools.

In January of this year, the legislature passed a bill which states that all schools in the nation will have the full price students, by the school year 2013-2014, paying a price equivalent to the reimbursement rate of a free price student set by the federal government, minus the \$.26 cents that the government has reimbursed for every paid students meal. Right now the reimburse-ment rate for a free student's meal is set at \$2.72. This rate goes up yearly.

It is also stated that elementary students be charged the same price as high school students. The bill also states that if the schools vote not to raise lunch prices, the difference for each meal must be covered by the individual school district, from their general fund. At the current reimbursement rates and the money that we charge for full price meals, we are losing for every full price student served, \$.86 at the elementary and \$.56 for the secondary schools.

To get to the amount of money that the government says we must be collecting for a full price meal, we need to raise our prices for the next 3 years by \$.86 for the elementary and \$.76 for the secondary schools, not counting the yearly reimbursement raises. If we can break this down into the 3 year span, we can ease the burden to the patrons a little bit.

I propose to raise the prices for the school year 2011-12 by \$.40 for the elementary, bringing it to \$2.00 and \$.35 for the secondary schools, for a price of \$2.25. Then the following years, to bring the prices fully to the reimbursement rate suggested by the government's bill.

I am hoping that the patrons will support these proposed changes and not withdraw from the lunch program. We strive daily to bring the best lunches that our budget can supply and stay within the nutrition guidelines set by the USDA, the National School Lunch Administration, and the Idaho Department of Education/Child Nutrition.

Thank You, Sincerely

Amy E. Dye, Firth Food Supervisor