

August Board Report 2026

Executive Summary

As we conclude the summer season and prepare for the upcoming school year, this report highlights our summer food service initiatives, current staffing metrics, legislative outreach, and progress on financial collections.

1. Summer Child Nutrition & Community Food Relief

Our Summer Meals Program was a major success this year. We provided thousands of meals to summer school students, walk-up participants across four local parks, and visitors at the Rec Center.

To bridge the two-week gap in August prior to the start of the school year, we partnered with local industry leaders and community members:

- **Food Box Distribution:** In partnership with **Chobani, Si-Ellen Farms, Chartwells**, and our **Jerome School District (JSD) Warehouse staff**, we distributed **188 food boxes** complete with shelf-stable milk, yogurt, and fresh apples.
 - **Additional Relief:** During the same event window, the Chobani team separately distributed hundreds of additional boxes filled with dairy products and fresh fruit directly to district families.
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2. Staffing & Retention Metrics

We are entering the new school year on strong operational footing:

- **Certified Staff Retention:** Achieved a **91% retention rate**.
 - **Board Approvals:** Currently presenting only **two emergency provisional placements** for board approval.
 - **"Grow Your Own" Initiative:** Our strategy to develop internal talent continues to yield strong results. The majority of our alternative authorization staff this year are long-standing former paraprofessionals and secretaries transitioning into certified classroom teaching roles.
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3. Legislative Outreach & Advocacy

Later this week, we will host **Senator Ron Taylor** for a tour of the kitchen facilities at **Summit Elementary** and **Jerome Middle School** to showcase our school nutrition operations in action.

Note: This visit stems from an outreach initiative during the National School Lunch Program campaign, where several state senators were invited to observe meal programs firsthand and discuss the importance of universal free school meals.

4. Financial Administration & Unpaid Balances

Over the summer, **Bianca** led a major initiative to address outstanding negative meal balances—the first time our district has formally executed this full resolution process:

- **Paid in Full:** 40 accounts were paid in complete settlement.
- **Payment Plans:** Successfully enrolled several families into formal payment agreements to prevent third-party collection escalations.
- **Collections Processing:** Remaining unpaid balances are currently being prepared for third-party collections. **Donjua** will assist with account postings to ensure strict adherence to collection agency regulations and protocols.

Looking Ahead

We extend our gratitude to our dedicated staff, community partners, and the Board of Trustees for their continued support as we start a successful 2026–2027 school year!

Thank you,

Gina Cakebread

HR Director