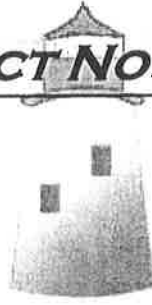


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May 16, 2017



Beth Dever  
Chief School Business Official  
deverb@avoca37.org

To: Dr. Jauch

From: Beth Dever 

Re: Food Service Provider Recommendation

In February, I posted a request for bid for our food service program. In March, the following companies submitted a bid:

- Arbor Management, Inc. (Our current provider)
- Organic Life LLC: Smart Foodservice
- Quest Food Management Services, Inc.

After reading the narratives to help determine the bidder's qualifications, I decided to visit two schools for each bidder. The following is a list of schools that were visited during the month of April:

- **Arbor** - Park Ridge School District 64 – Lincoln Middle School – Grades 6-8
- **Arbor** - Winnetka School District 36 – Carleton W Washburn School – Grades 7-8
- **Organic Life** - Northbrook School District 28 – Northbrook Jr High – Grades 6-8
- **Organic Life** - Sunset Ridge School District 29 – Sunset Ridge School – Grades 4-8
- **Quest** - Francis Parker – Grades K-12
- **Quest** - New Trier School District 203 – Winnetka Campus – Grades 9-12

Food service committee members and I completed site visit observation forms and commented on the lunch menu, a la carte food and drinks sold, presentation and freshness of food, what students and staff bought, staffing, lunch lines, POS system and containers used for waste and recycling.

The District is to award the contract to the lowest, responsible bidder, taking into account the bidder's qualifications as determined by the information provided by the bidder in the requested narratives, as well as overall price and value to the District. After careful consideration of the bid criteria, I am recommending that we accept the bid from Quest Food Management Services, Inc. Quest stood out as the best food service partner for Avoca both in their bid response and on the site visits. Their program will provide fresh food options with most items cooked from scratch. They have thousands of menu options that will bring variety and excitement to our menus. We will be able to offer a vegetarian option on a daily basis at both schools. They will also provide some healthy grab and go options for all students. Marie Murphy students will enjoy some options that are assemble-to-order items similar to quick serve restaurants. Avoca West students will have more choices available and access to a fruit and vegetable bar. I believe Quest's branding and marketing strategies will help increase our sales. They will also work with us to improve the speed at which we can get students through the lunch lines.

I called three districts that currently work with Quest. All three were extremely pleased with Quest and felt they were a great food service vendor. Their students, staff and parents are happy with their food service program. Quest works with each District's wellness or food service committees as requested. Quest has done a great job of providing adequate and trained staff at each of these districts. This enables them to provide a quality food service program.

I recommend that Avoca accepts Quest's bid and selects a lunch price of \$3.95. This is in line with our typical annual fee increase. In addition to this, I am recommending that we pass along the Mealtime credit card fees of 4.5% to our parents and staff that pay online. Anyone who doesn't want to pay the fee can pay by check. I will work with Quest over the summer to set the rest of the pricing for individual items in the program.

Please see me if you have any questions.

Thanks