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Hello Board Members:

Summer always seems to look like it's going to stretch out for an eternity when school first gets out and then before I know it, we are preparing for Registration day, and Staff back-to-work breakfast and elementary Bash and so much more! We are almost through the first week of school and while it's been a little chaotic and busy, we're managing well. Onward we go!!

I have hired two new staff members to replace positions that were vacant after the last school year ended. They are Cathy Desgrange and Callie Siwarga and both are working in the elementary kitchen and doing very well. I am looking forward to a great year with my staff.

I attended two classes this summer; one was a training class to explain the State's 10 cents a Meal Program and I learned a lot there. I'm hopeful to submit an application and get accepted and receive some grant money for local fresh fruits and vegetables I already purchase. The second class was called Financial Management hosted and taught by the Food Service Director at Jenison & Hudsonville Schools and was supported through School Nutrition Associate of Michigan. I started the class feeling completely lost and walked away 5 hours later feeling like I had learned a lot. I think my department as well as myself as a Director will benefit greatly from the information I was given, albeit it will be a slow learning process as most of the information was new to me.

We wait, hold our breath and hope for the best to hear that the Michigan School Meals Program, which allows free meals for all students, is included in the 2025-26 State Budget. We all know how important this program has become to schools, so we are hopeful, but making preparations in case it does not pass into the budget by asking as many parents/guardians as possible to complete the Free and Reduced Meals Application.

I hope you all enjoyed a piece of Michigan summer these past few months; I sure did!

As always, thank you for this opportunity to serve my community as Food Service Director.

Missy Kadluboski