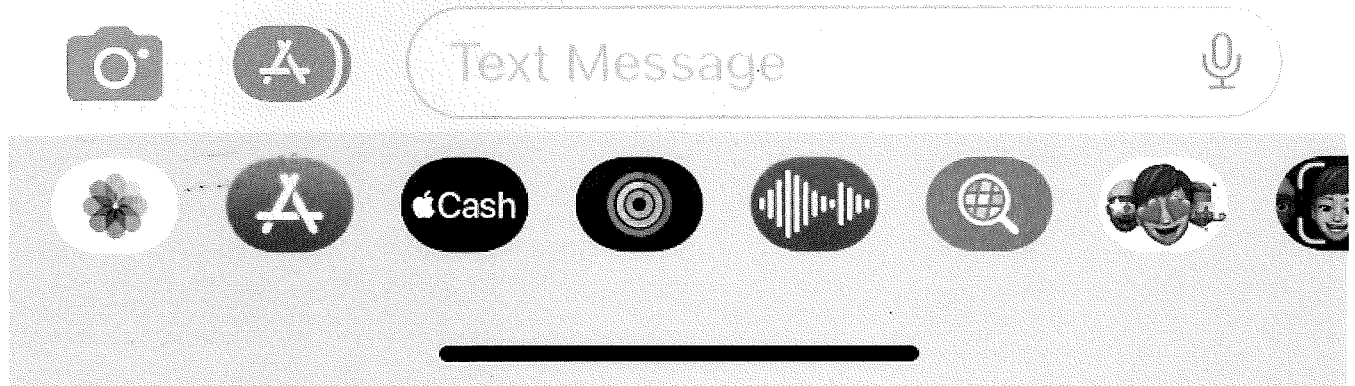


public input. Liza, feel free to reach out to me individually if you want to discuss further. I'm around all afternoon - or we can talk tomorrow before the meeting.

Thu, Jun 29 at 12:41 PM

Liza Kelly

Food and nutrition staff were given the impression that Melissa Bates



James Carter

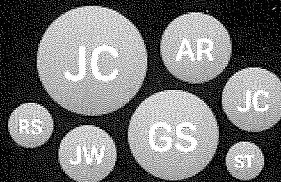
I will give my two cents on this. Our board policy and guidelines state that we have public comment at our regular schedule board meetings. If people want to share their comments, they can do so via email or phone calls. If we make an exception this time, we will be asked to make an exception every



Text Message



11:34



7 People >



...  
tomorrow before the meeting.

Thu, Jun 29 at 12:41 PM

Food and nutrition staff were given the impression that Melissa Bates was legally unable to answer their questions about Chartwells. Was there a reason Melissa did not present to us today? I was curious why Georgia was at the podium and should have asked this at the time, but would like some clarity on this.

Jim Causby

There was no reason that Melissa was not presenting. Georgia was at the podium because this RFP process has been led by her. She has handled the work between my office and the attorneys on the contract addendum and that was

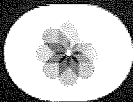
contract addendum and that was what the agenda item was about. I have no knowledge of why Food Service staff felt that Melissa could not comment about legal requirements. Perhaps she implied that because she was not involved in the discussions on the contract addendum.



Thu. Jun 29 at 6:42 PM

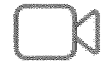
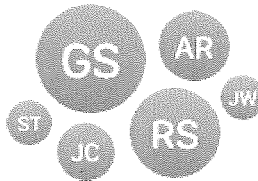


Text Message 





4:06



ACS Board >

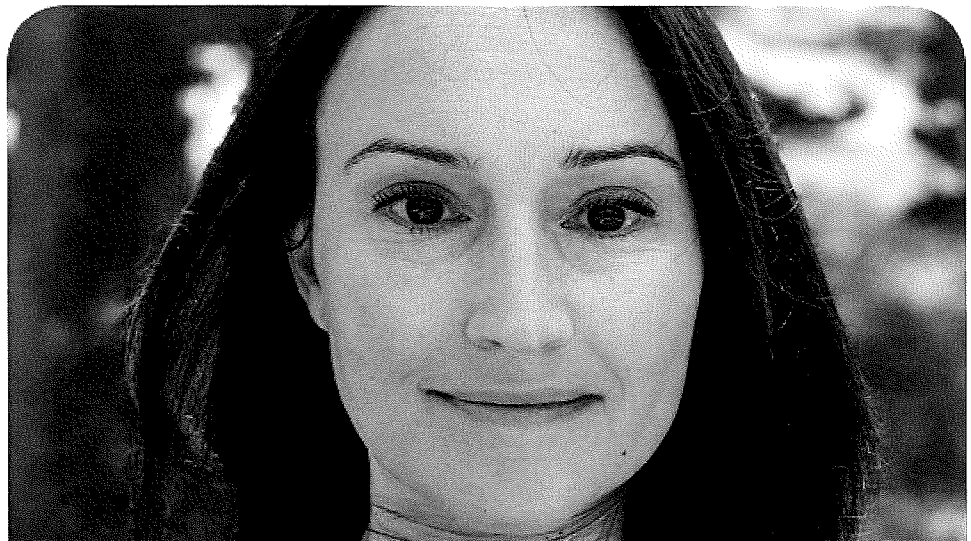
Sun, Jun 25 at 1:45 PM

Rebecca Strimer

Did everyone see the op-ed in today's citizen times about privatizing the nutrition program? It's the email we received from the IDES parent.



Sun, Jun 25 at 2:49 PM



**Opinion: As a parent I oppose Asheville City School plan to privatize school lunch program**

citizen-times.com

Today 2:57 PM.

George Sieburg



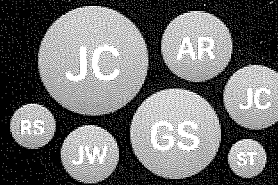
Hey Board! James and Rebecca and I got the training yesterday for the new board interface program the district is going to start using. It's called Diligent Community, and you should have received an email



iMessage



11:34



7 People &gt;



We've certainly had input from the community via email. And they can continue to reach out this way. And thank you Dr Causby for that perspective.

GS

Rebecca Strimer



I see that technically these interpretations are correct. And I do not feel there has been adequate opportunity for public comment on this topic. Typically we discuss a matter in a work session and then people have the following regular meeting to make comment. In the situation of the Chartwells contract, we discussed it in a regular meeting, rather than the preceding work session, so there is no following regular meeting prior to the vote on the contract. My interpretation of this ask is that

interpretation of this ask is that people are wanting to make comment about the vote on the contract. I also agree with Dr. Causby that a late addition of public comment will cause as many challenges as it alleviates. Going forward I hope we do not take consequential votes with both a work session and regular meeting.

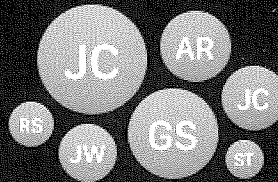
RS



Text Message 



11:33



7 People &gt;

exception this time, we will be asked to make an exception every time. I would suggested those who want to comment on this be asked to share their comments with the board through email or phone calls.



Jim Causby

Your policy allows for public comment only at the regular monthly meeting. The Board would have to vote to add it at the special meeting. That might be considered unfair to other folks who are not there because they are unaware of the opportunity for public comment especially any wanting to sign up for virtual public comment. I have no objection to you allowing it but it is my job to warn you of possible repercussions. If the desire by someone to speak is on Food



Services you might remind them that the only vote on that is the contract.

George Sieburg



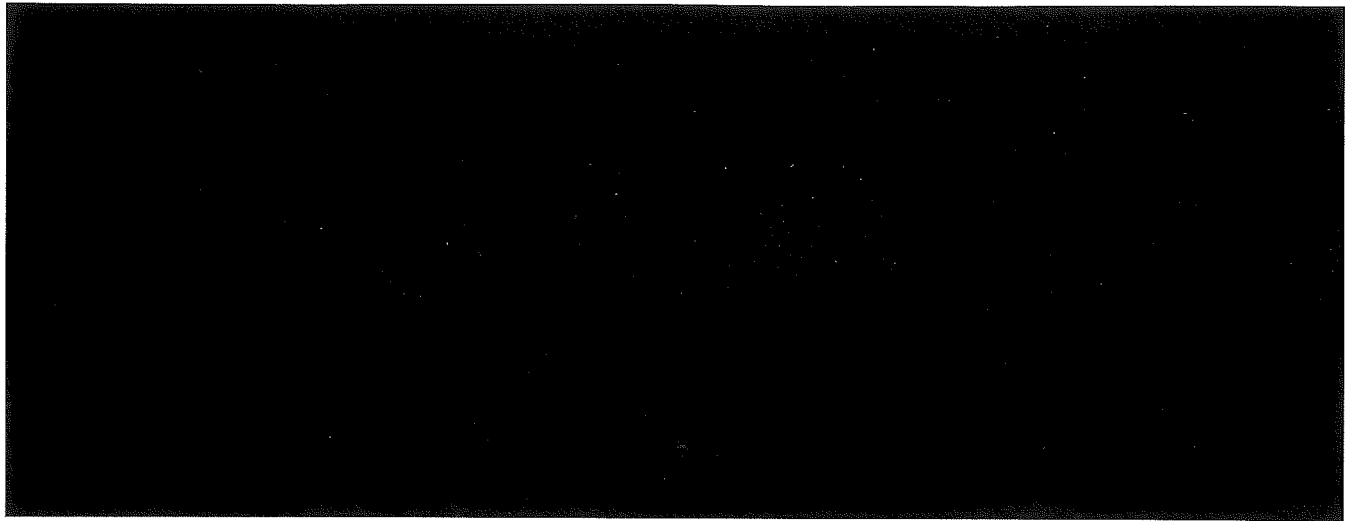
I tend to agree with you James. We've certainly had input from the community via email. And they can continue to reach out this way. And thank you Dr Causby for that



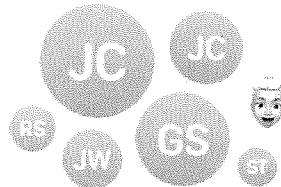
Text Message







12:56



7 People

wed, Jul 26 at 1:00 PM

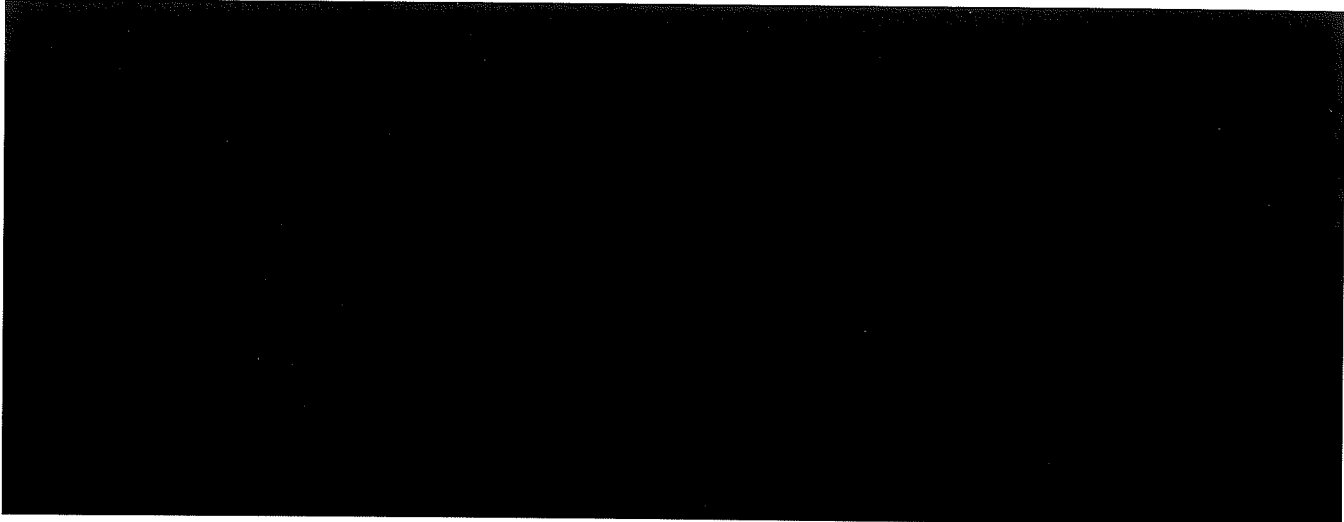
George Sieburg

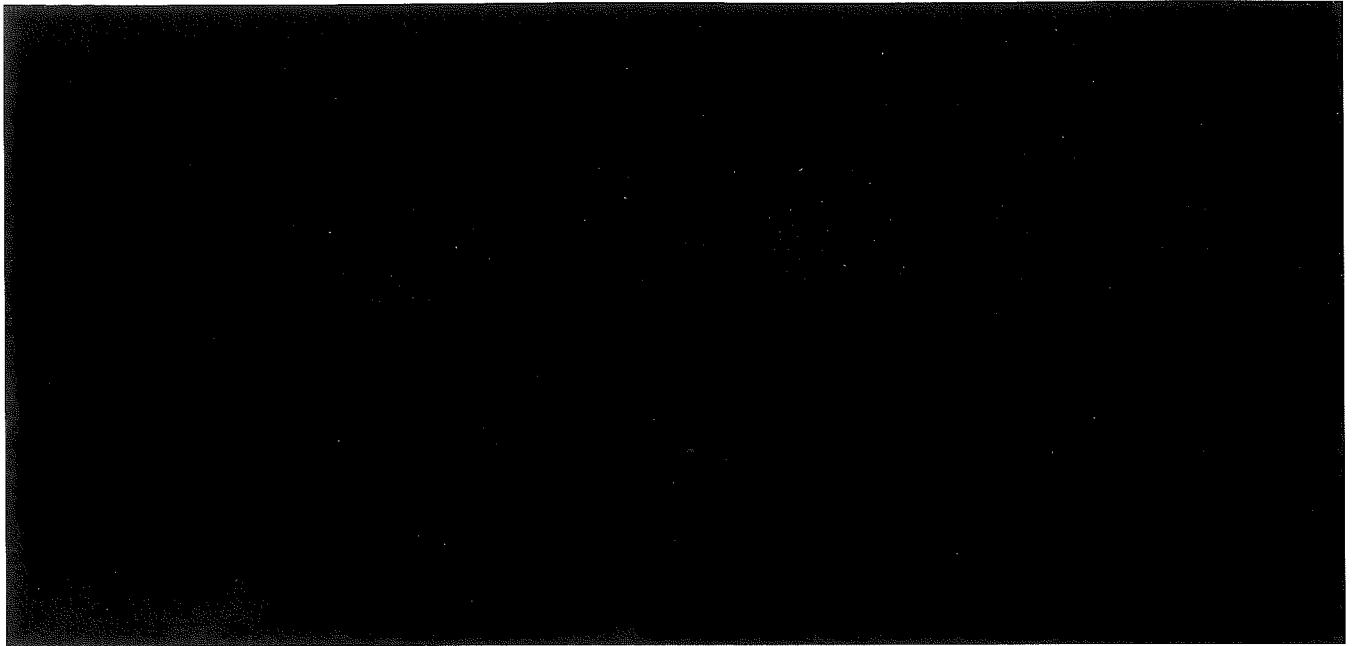
Hi board and Dr Causby. I've heard from someone in the community asking about public comment tomorrow morning - particularly around the Chartwell's contract. I recognize this is a special called meeting, so we're not obligated to allow for public comment, and I also see that the next chance for public comment is not until mid

public comment is not until this  
August. I have no opinion either  
way, but if we're not adding  
public comment to the agenda  
for tomorrow morning, we should  
be prepared to explain why.  
Happy to hear thoughts.



Liza Kelly





Sun, Jun 25 at 1:45 PM

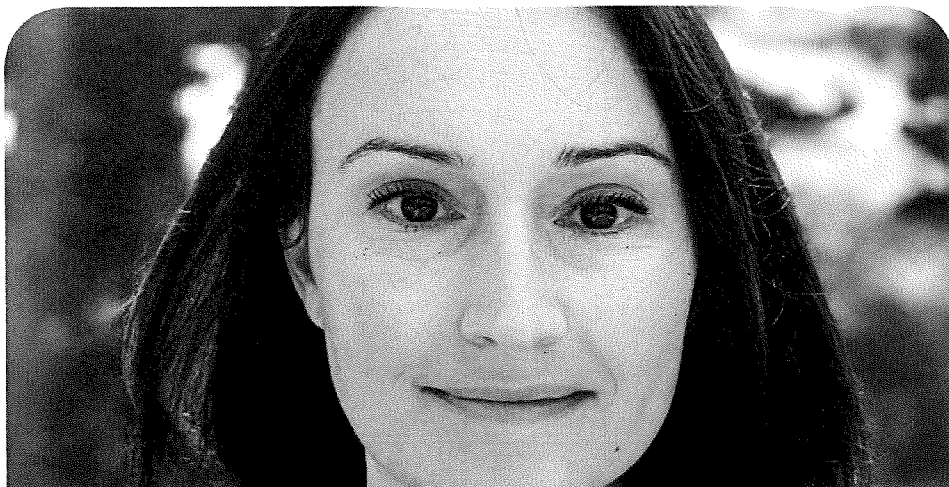
Rebecca Strimer

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Sun, Jun 25 at 2:49 PM

Liza Kelly

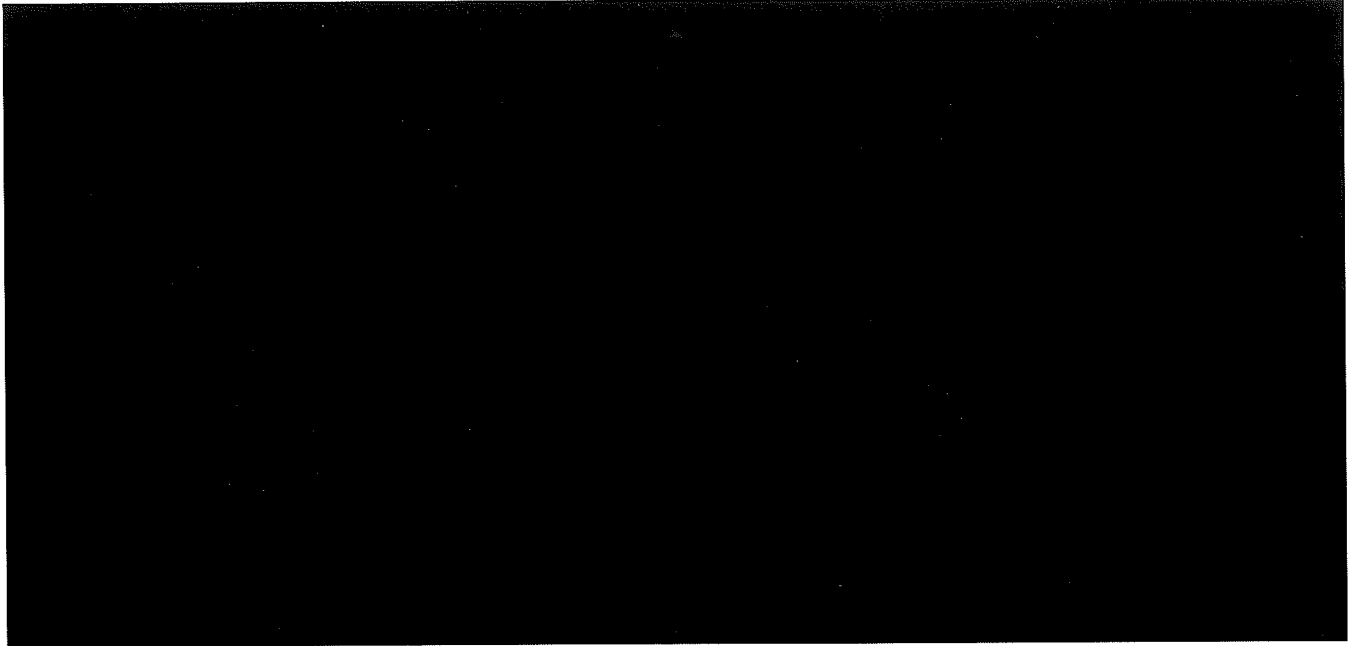




# Opinion: As a parent I oppose Asheville City School plan to privatize school lunch program



[citizen-times.com](http://citizen-times.com)



**From :** "Chris Pohlman"

**To :** "melissa.bates@acsgmail.net", "taletha.roseborough@acsgmail.net", "james.carter@acsgmail.net",  
"april.dockery@acsgmail.net", "Derek.Edwards@acsgmail.net", "deborah.jones@acsgmail.net", "richlyn.holt@acsgmail.net",  
"keva.bates@acsgmail.net", "tabitha.banks@acsgmail.net", "adreian.miller@acsgmail.net", "george.gibbs@acsgmail.net",  
"pearley.hampton@acsgmail.net", "tanya.presha@acsgmail.net", "ameran.kelly@acsgmail.net", "kelly.angel@acsgmail.net",  
"chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net"

**Cc :** "Georgia Harvey"

**Subject :** RFP for School Nutrition - Update

Verify Team Members,

Thank you to all of you for your help in evaluating and choosing a Food Service Management Company, both to those that were able to attend the presentations on 6/12 and to those who weren't. Your input was crucial in this decision and we greatly appreciate everyone's support!

The ACS School Board approved at last night's Special Called Board Meeting to proceed with partnering with **Chartwells!** The initial term will be for the 2023-2024 school year, with the opportunity to renew for 4 additional one-year terms if all goes well!

Thanks again to you all!

-Chris

Chris Pohlman  
Purchasing Clerk  
Asheville City Schools  
[he/him/his]  
ph: (828) 350-6101  
[chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net](mailto:chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net)

**From : "Chris Pohlman"**

**To : "james.carter@acsgmail.net" , "april.dockery@acsgmail.net" , "Derek.Edwards@acsgmail.net" ,  
"deborah.jones@acsgmail.net" , "richlyn.holt@acsgmail.net" , "keva.bates@acsgmail.net" , "tabitha.banks@acsgmail.net" ,  
"adreian.miller@acsgmail.net" , "george.gibbs@acsgmail.net" , "pearley.hampton@acsgmail.net" , "tanya.presha@acsgmail.net"  
 , "ameran.kelly@acsgmail.net" , "kelly.angel@acsgmail.net" , "'Georgia Harvey'"**

**Subject : RFP 148-SN-024 Bid Responses and Presentation Information**

Good afternoon,

Please see links below to view responses to RFP# 148-SN-024 from the 3 vendors that we expect to see at presentations below.

All members of the Verify Team should plan to be at the ACS Training Room at June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

Presentation #1 – Sodexo

June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to 12:00pm

Link to view Bid Response material Sodexo

Presentation #2 – SFE

June 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Link to view Bid Response material for SFE

Presentation #3 – Chartwells

June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 4:00pm

Link to view Bid Response material for Chartwells

Please plan to stay after the final presentation. A decision will need to be made this day before everybody leaves.

Thanks!

-Chris

Chris Pohlman

Purchasing Clerk

Asheville City Schools

[he/him/his]

ph: (828) 350-6101

chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net



From: "James Causby"

To: "Christina Mason"

Cc: "james.carter@acsgmail.net", "george.sieburg@acsgmail.net", "amy.ray@acsgmail.net", "jesse.warren@acsgmail.net", "sarah.thornburg@acsgmail.net", "rebecca.strimer@acsgmail.net", "liza.kelly@acsgmail.net", "Brooke Heaton", "Daniel Withrow", "bcae.ncae@gmail.com", "mfehman@csdecatur.net", "MLeavens@citizentimes.com", "Dillon Huffman"

Subject: Re: Privatizing ACS school nutrition

Thank you Christina for your communication and concerns you express about using a private food service provider. The Board is taking this step due to continuing cash flow losses in our food service program and the necessity to make the food service program at least "break even" financially. I have had the opportunity to work with Chartwells in other school systems and have not found any of the negative comments about them to be accurate. They were always cooperative, increased student participation significantly, improved the quality of food offerings, and generated revenue necessary to operate the food service program in a profitable fashion for the school system. Our Board will certainly monitor this very closely and has the option each year to not renew the contract if they do not find it satisfactory.

On Mon, Jun 19, 2023 at 10:41â€ AM Christina Mason <christinaemason@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Board of Education Members and Dr. Causby,

It was disheartening not to receive a response from any members of this elected body. I was disappointed to learn that you are now in contract negotiations to outsource school nutrition with Chartwells K12. While ACS has created the public impression that Chartwells is a North Carolina company that will bring only improvements, the reality is much more complicated. It is disingenuous to call Chartwells a local company; it is not a mom-and-pop, it's a publicly-traded global enterprise. Although technically headquartered in Charlotte, Chartwells is the U.S. subsidiary of UK-based Compass Group, a multinational corporation boasting profits of \$1.4 Billion. This company has, and will, put profit ahead of people. I urge you to vote against the contract after doing more due diligence and reckoning with its impact on workers and students.

As Citizen Times reported, there are serious concerns about how outsourcing would hurt workers and students. Chartwells's employer record is spotty at best. Last month, GW students marched to show support for food service employees demanding improved wages and respect from management. El Dorado News Times reported that "Chartwells says it offers health care, paid time off and a 401(k) plan to its workers," but Sheree Allen, a Black employee in Durham, NC says she has never been given information about those benefits despite asking her superiors. When she tested positive for COVID in January, she had to stay home without pay. At Seattle University, Chartwells was accused of "infringing on workers' rights and issues with food poisoning," breaching union contracts, denying raises, tips, and overtime pay, unfair scheduling, and uneven wages. Employees alleged "Chartwells used temps instead of hiring full-time employees." Sketchy labor practices are common. Per "The Big Business of School Meals," "While school-run cafeterias are staffed by district employees, [private companies] are able to hire hourly workers, paying them at lower rates and providing them with fewer benefits."

Â

If this contract goes through, Asheville nutrition staff will lose power, income, and rights, plus representation by the Asheville City Association of Educators. New hires will be private Chartwell employees whereas current nutrition workers will remain district employees. Although ACS calls on Chartwells to match minimum pay (whatever that means in the long term), this dual system would be divisive and inequitable. The frontline workers who serve our children deserve better.

ACS chose Chartwells because its nutrition program is in debt. But Chartwells has mismanaged school nutrition nationwide. In 2015 it settled a \$19 Million lawsuit with D.C. schools alleging it "overcharged the city and botched the school meals program, with food often arriving at schools late, spoiled or in short supply." It quit that contract mid year. This May a Colorado district declined to renew Chartwells' contract for incurring \$80,000 debt and "not being truthful." Chartwells "lost about \$140,000" in another Colorado district in 2004.

None of this should be a surprise. A recent audit report identified public school districts that "returned to self-operation after failed attempts at outsourcing," including Philadelphia, New York City, Detroit, Fairfax County, New Haven, and Baltimore. "In those rare cases when private companies do run school meal programs at a lower cost (usually because they've replaced a district-operated program that was solely mismanaged), they've done so mainly by exploiting their workers and securing kickbacks from food suppliers." ("Big Business")

Â

Chartwells claims to leverage its economies of scale to provide better food cheaper. Slick marketing promises a wide variety of healthy meals to attract student participation. But The New York Times reports that "food service management giants like Chartwells" work in tandem with food manufacturers like the chicken producers Tyson and Pilgrim's, all of which profit when good food is turned to bad. When Chartwells has taken food programs private, quality and sanitation problems have followed. In 2020 school inspectors in Jacksonville reported hundreds of health code violations. Students and staff there complained for years about unappetizing meals ("I've seen better dog food than that") and moldy food. Petitions, boycotts, and criticism over food service and quality have piled up. Boston students complained about raw meat, bugs, and poor variety, prompting the university to issue \$150 refunds. Local UNCA students give Chartwells mixed reviews, with some criticizing food value, safety, and appeal: "The dining hall consistently provides mediocrity." If quality takes a hit at ACS, disparities along racial and income lines may widen between students eating free/reduced meals v. opting out.

Student meals aren't the place to pinch pennies or make money. How we nourish students should be consistent with our values: equity, good nutrition, fair employment, and investing in our local economy. Outsourcing would disadvantage nutrition workers, cede

...should learn from examples and resist the temptation to sell out school nutrition as a BandAid for its financial problems. Itâ€™s  
with it.

...your constituent, I urge you to vote no.Â

Sincerely,  
Christina Mason  
ACS elementary school parent  
West Asheville

On Thu, Apr 27, 2023, 5:04 PM Christina Mason <[christinaemason@gmail.com](mailto:christinaemason@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dear Dr. Causby and School Board members:

I'm the parent of a Kindergartener at Isaac Dickson and we rely on full-price cafeteria meals 4-5 times a week. I oppose privatizing the ACS nutrition program, a holdover from Dr. Freeman's concern that our lunch program wasn't "profitable" enough. School meals aren't the right place to be pinching pennies or making money. Cafeterias are the engines powering our students through the day. How we feed our children should be consistent with our values: good nutrition, equity, fair compensation, employee empowerment, and respect for the inherent dignity of work. Using a for-profit vendor would disadvantage our cafeteria workers, lower meal quality, and prioritize Big Agriculture on menus. Our cafeteria staff will lose power, income, and rights, and student participation will decline as menus are developed around profitability. These have been the consequences in other districts that outsourced in the hopes of saving money. Please, don't make the same mistake.

Nutrition staff should be fairly compensated (including benefits) and feel respected and empowered. There is a contradiction in outsourcing nutrition while striving for student equity and a living wage for the rest of classified staff. By definition, for-profit companies prioritize making money for owners and shareholders. Quality will suffer. Workers will experience worse pay, scheduling, and benefits. Turnover will increase as jobs become less attractive.

Student participation in meals will also decline as food becomes cheaper and more processed. Disparities will increase as more students opt out of cafeteria food because profit drives the menu. Outsourcing will just widen existing divides along income and racial lines between students who get free school lunch and the those who bring lunch from home.Â

Plenty of research and reporting backs these points:

"In those rare cases when private companies do run school meal programs at a lower cost (usually because theyâ€™ve replaced a district-operated program that was sorely mismanaged), theyâ€™ve done so mainly by exploiting their workers and securing kickbacks from food suppliers. For instance, while school-run cafeterias are staffed by district employees, FSMCs are able to hire hourly workers, paying them at lower rates and providing them with fewer benefits."

<https://kappanonline.org/big-business-school-meals-food-service-gaddis/>

"About a quarter of the school nutrition program has been privatized, much of it outsourced to food service management giants like Aramark, based in Philadelphia; Sodexo, based in France; and the Chartwells division of the Compass Group, based in Britain. They work in tandem with food manufacturers like the chicken producers Tyson and Pilgrimâ€™s, all of which profit when good food is turned to bad."

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"[T]he audit report identifies six other school districts that have privatized food services and subsequently returned to self-operation, including:

School District of Philadelphia  
New York City Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools  
Fairfax County Public Schools  
New Haven Public Schools  
Baltimore City Public Schools

For one reason or another, each of these school districts ultimately returned to self-operation after failed attempts at outsourcing food services."

<https://nronline.org/2017/09/05/another-privatization-fail-5-things-you-dont-know-about-school-lunches-but-probably-should/>

Please resist the temptation to outsource school nutrition. It won't be worth it.

Sincerely,

From : "Christina Mason"

To : "James Causby" , "james.carter@acsgmail.net" , "george.sieburg@acsgmail.net" , "amy.ray@acsgmail.net" ,

"jesse.warren@acsgmail.net" , "sarah.thornburg@acsgmail.net" , "rebecca.strimer@acsgmail.net" , "liza.kelly@acsgmail.net"

Cc : "Brooke Heaton" , "Daniel Withrow" , "bcae.ncae@gmail.com" , "mfehrman@csdecatur.net" ,

"MLeavens@citizentimes.com" , "Dillon Huffman"

Subject : Re: Privatizing ACS school nutrition

Dear Board of Education Members and Dr. Causby,

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As Citizen Times reported, there are serious concerns about how outsourcing would hurt workers and students.

Chartwells's employer record is spotty at best. Last month, GW students marched to show support for food service employees demanding improved wages and respect from management. El Dorado News Times reported that Chartwells says it offers health care, paid time off and a 401(k) plan to its workers, but Sheree Allen, a Black employee in Durham, NC says she has never been given information about those benefits despite asking her superiors. When she tested positive for COVID in January, she had to stay home without pay. At Seattle University, Chartwells was accused of infringing on workers' rights and issues with food poisoning, breaching union contracts, denying raises, tips, and overtime pay, unfair scheduling, and uneven wages. Employees alleged Chartwells used temps instead of hiring full-time employees." Sketchy labor practices are common. Per "The Big Business of School Meals", "While school-run cafeterias are staffed by district employees, [private companies] are able to hire hourly workers, paying them at lower rates and providing them with fewer benefits."

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If this contract goes through, Asheville nutrition staff will lose power, income, and rights, plus representation by the Asheville City Association of Educators. New hires will be private Chartwell employees whereas current nutrition workers will remain district employees. Although ACS calls on Chartwells to match minimum pay (whatever that means in the long term), this dual system would be divisive and inequitable. The frontline workers who serve our children deserve better.

ACS chose Chartwells because its nutrition program is in debt. But Chartwells has mismanaged school nutrition nationwide. In 2015 it settled a \$19 Million lawsuit with D.C. schools alleging it overcharged the city and botched the school meals program, with food often arriving at schools late, spoiled or in short supply. It quit that contract mid year. This May a Colorado district declined to renew Chartwells' contract for incurring \$80,000 debt and not being truthful. Chartwells lost about \$140,000 in another Colorado district in 2004.

None of this should be a surprise. A recent audit report identified public school districts that returned to self-operation after failed attempts at outsourcing, including Philadelphia, New York City, Detroit, Fairfax County, New Haven, and Baltimore. In those rare cases when private companies do run school meal programs at a lower cost (usually because they've replaced a district-operated program that was solely mismanaged), they've done so mainly by exploiting their workers and securing kickbacks from food suppliers. (Big Business)

Â

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Student meals aren't the place to pinch pennies or make money. How we nourish students should be consistent with our values: equity, good nutrition, fair employment, and investing in our local economy. Outsourcing would disadvantage nutrition workers, cede local control, lower meal quality, promote Big Agriculture, and send dollars out of our community.

ACS should learn from examples and resist the temptation to sell out school nutrition as a BandAid for its financial problems. It's not worth it.

As your constituent, I urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,  
Christina Mason

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- School District of Philadelphia
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For one reason or another, each of these school districts ultimately returned to self-operation after failed attempts at outsourcing food services."

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Please resist the temptation to outsource school nutrition. It won't be worth it.

Sincerely,  
Christina Mason  
West Asheville  
(240) 547-8234

From : "James Causby"

To : "Carl Davis"

Cc : "james.carter@acsgmail.net" , "jesse.warren@acsgmail.net" , "sarah.thornburg@acsgmail.net" , "amy.ray@acsgmail.net" , "george.sieburg@acsgmail.net" , "liza.kelly@acsgmail.net" , "rebecca.strimer@acsgmail.net"

Subject : Re: parent comment on privatizing school meals

Thank you Carl for your communication and concerns you express about using a private food service provider. The Board is taking this step due to continuing cash flow losses in our food service program and the necessity to make the food service program at least "break even" financially. I have had the opportunity to work with Chartwells in other school systems and have not found any of the negative comments about them to be accurate. They were always cooperative, increased student participation significantly, improved the quality of food offerings, and generated revenue necessary to operate the food service program in a profitable fashion for the school system. Our Board will certainly monitor this very closely and has the option each year to not renew the contract if they do not find it satisfactory.

On Tue, Jun 20, 2023 at 9:52â€PM Carl Davis <cpdavis1@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear ACS Leaders,

I'm an ACS parent to a kid who bought school lunch every day last year. In my opinion, handing Chartwells--or any other company--a government-granted monopoly over our school meals would be hugely problematic.

Chartwells has a duty to its shareholders to turn the largest profit it can on this deal. Typically, the big food services companies do this by cutting corners on both food quality and worker benefits. There's no way granting them this monopoly works out well for our city and our kids over the long haul. They may be on their best behavior at first while we try this out, but their obligation to turn a profit at our expense will eventually catch up with us.

Asheville likes to think of itself as a progressive city, but it's hard to take that seriously with privatization efforts like this so high on our list of priorities. I'm teaching my children that government is how we come together to accomplish great things that no individual can do on their own. What does it say about us that we're giving up on administering basic government services and outsourcing them to a foreign company instead?

Carl Davis

--

Dr. Jim Causby, Interim Superintendent

Asheville City Schools

85 Mountain Street

Asheville, NC 28801

Email: [james.causby@acsgmail.net](mailto:james.causby@acsgmail.net)

Office Phone: 828-350-6145

From : "Georgia Harvey"

To : "George Sieburg"

Cc : "Amy Ray" , "Sarah Thornburg" , "James Carter" , "Jesse Warren" , "Liza Kelly" , "Rebecca Strimer" , "April Dockery" ,  
"Melissa Bates" , "Chris Pohlman"

Subject : Re: Food Service Management Company - Chartwells

George

I spoke with Melissa Bates - she provided the 6 month meal equivalent for Attachment B calculations and this should be considered as half. I have contacted the vendor to verify they have the same understanding (resulting in a double amount to be paid for the year). I will respond after speaking directly with the Vendor.

Thanks

**Georgia O. Harvey**

*Executive Director of Finance*

*Asheville City Schools*

*85 Mountain Street*

*Asheville, NC 28801*

*828-350-6104 Office  
980-621-0966 Cell*

On Tue, Jun 13, 2023 at 2:21 PM George Sieburg <[george.sieburg@acs@gmail.net](mailto:george.sieburg@acs@gmail.net)> wrote:

Thanks Georgia.

Just to be clear, based on Attachment B: is the cost of \$458K for the entire school year or just through Jan 31, 2024? And if the latter is the case, do you have a calculation of cost for the entire school year?

On Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 7:20 PM Georgia Harvey <[georgia.harvey@acs@gmail.net](mailto:georgia.harvey@acs@gmail.net)> wrote:

Food Service Management Company

[Link](#) to view Bid Response material for Chartwells

Financial info to follow tomorrow

Thank you,

**Georgia O. Harvey**

*Executive Director of Finance*

*Asheville City Schools*

*85 Mountain Street*

*Asheville, NC 28801*

*828-350-6104 Office  
980-621-0966 Cell*

--  
**George Sieburg**

Asheville City Schools Board Chair

828.279.7649 (mobile)

828.350.7649 (office)



**ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**

*Learn. Discover. Thrive.*

85 Mountain Street



**From :** "George Sieburg"

**To :** "Georgia Harvey"

**Cc :** "Amy Ray" , "Sarah Thornburg" , "James Carter" , "Jesse Warren" , "Liza Kelly" , "Rebecca Strimer" , "April Dockery" , "Melissa Bates" , "Chris Pohlman"

**Subject :** Re: Food Service Management Company - Chartwells

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--

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From : "Liza Kelly"

To : "Dillon Huffman"

Subject : Re: ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLSâ€™ JUNE 15th, 2023 BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Thank you, Dillon. Just wanted to offer one correction - Sarah was not present for this meeting.

Thank you for all that you do!

Liza

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 6:11 PM Dillon Huffman <dillon.huffman@acsgmail.net> wrote:

The Asheville City Board of Education held a Special Called Work Session on June 15th, 2022, at 5:00 PM. All board members were present. Please review the below board update and let April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations, or Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer, know if you have any questions.Â

The Asheville City Board of Education approved entering into a contract negotiation with Chartwells to outsource Child Nutrition services in the district. The final contract will be reviewed by the ACS Board of Education and voted on at the June 29th board meeting.Â

Links to all presentations can be found [here](#), and you can watch the meeting on our [website](#). If you have any questions, please direct them to April Dockery or Dillon Huffman. Thank you for your continued support of Asheville City Schools!Â

--

**Dillon Huffman**  
**Public Information Officer**  
[Asheville City Schools](#)

C. 828-273-8391

E.Â [dillon.huffman@acsgmail.net](mailto:dillon.huffman@acsgmail.net)

Twitter:Â [@DillonHuffmanTV](#)



From : "Carl Davis"

To : "james.carter@acsgmail.net" , "jesse.warren@acsgmail.net" , "sarah.thornburg@acsgmail.net" , "amy.ray@acsgmail.net" , "george.sieburg@acsgmail.net" , "liza.kelly@acsgmail.net" , "rebecca.strimer@acsgmail.net" , "james.causby@acsgmail.net"

Subject : parent comment on privatizing school meals

Dear ACS Leaders,

I'm an ACS parent to a kid who bought school lunch every day last year. In my opinion, handing Chartwells--or any other company--a government-granted monopoly over our school meals would be hugely problematic.

Chartwells has a duty to its shareholders to turn the largest profit it can on this deal. Typically, the big food services companies do this by cutting corners on both food quality and worker benefits. There's no way granting them this monopoly works out well for our city and our kids over the long haul. They may be on their best behavior at first while we try this out, but their obligation to turn a profit at our expense will eventually catch up with us.

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Carl Davis

**From : "Richlyn Holt"**  
**To : "James Carter"**  
**Subject : Nutrition Department**  
Hi Mr. Carter,

I'm Travis Holt. I'm the cafeteria manager from Ira B Jones Elementary who spoke at the meeting tonight. While I have had apprehension about moving toward an outside vendor, I do see a need to do something given that the nutrition department has been in the negative year after year. I have been to the Chapel Hill school district as they are run by Chartwells. I was able to talk to nutrition employees of the Chapel Hill School District and Chartwell employees in an Elementary, Middle, and High School. Seeing the operation and seeing that Chartwells did not push anyone to move to the company, this gave me a better feeling about moving toward an outside vendor for ACS. Giving the kids more choice in the meals will raise our participation thus giving us more revenue. I still have questions about their pay rate and benefits. This is where I am right now.

If you have any questions for me, please let me know. My email is [richlyn.holt@acs@gmail.net](mailto:richlyn.holt@acs@gmail.net). I will be happy to answer any question as best as I can. I have told my staff to reach out to each of the board members as well.

Thank you for your time,  
Travis Holt

--  
"Each is given a bag of tools,  
a shapeless mask, and a book of rules"  
-The Heptones

**From :** "Georgia Harvey"

**To :** "George Sieburg" , "Amy Ray" , "Sarah Thornburg" , "James Carter" , "Jesse Warren" , "Liza Kelly" , "Rebecca Strimer"

**Cc :** "April Dockery" , "Melissa Bates" , "Chris Pohlman"

**Subject :** Food Service Management Company - Chartwells

Food Service Management Company

[Link](#) to view Bid Response material for Chartwells

Financial info to follow tomorrow

Thank you,

**Georgia O. Harvey**

*Executive Director of Finance*

*Asheville City Schools*

*85 Mountain Street*

*Asheville, NC 28801*

*828-350-6104 Office*

*980-621-0966 Cell*

**From : "Dillon Huffman"**

**To : "ACS ALL-STAFF"**

**Cc : "George Sieburg" , "Amy Ray" , "James Carter" , "Jesse Warren" , "Liza Kelly" , "Rebecca Strimer" , "Sarah Thornburg"**

**Subject : ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLSâ€™ JUNE 15th, 2023 BOARD MEETING UPDATE**

The Asheville City Board of Education held a Special Called Work Session on June 15th, 2022, at 5:00 PM. All board members were present. Please review the below board update and let April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations, or Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer, know if you have any questions.Â

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--

**Dillon Huffman**

**Public Information Officer**

[Asheville City Schools](#)

C. 828-273-8391

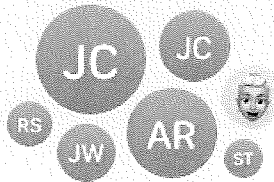
E.Â [dillon.huffman@acsgmail.net](mailto:dillon.huffman@acsgmail.net)

Twitter:Â [@DillonHuffmanTV](#)





2:21



7 People



\*without both...

Liza Kelly

I'd like to make an exception and add public comment for this meeting. This whole process has felt rushed and i know many members of the community are feeling like it's been another example of a lack of transparency.



I probably should have reached out to Dr Causby and legal before even texting you all - my apologies - but as Dr Causby said, adding public comment now would have to be by vote at the meeting, which would make the case moot - that is, not providing enough notice. In lieu of that, I can say something publicly tomorrow morning to speak to



WILL DO.

Rebecca Strimer

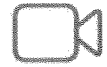
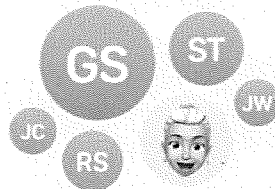


Thank you for letting us know. I'm glad it was a positive experience.

Tue, Jul 18 at 5:38 PM



12:52



ACS Board >

Mon, Jun 12 at 11:36 AM

Rebecca Strimer

Do we have an agenda for tonight that includes the nutrition program proposals?



James Carter



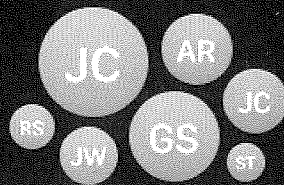
Here is the process for tonight. There will not be "proposals" presented. The committee will make a determination after having the 3 presentations today and then Melissa will bring the committee's recommendation to the board. She will walk through process and answer any questions.



Hope this helps

Rebecca Strimer

11:34



7 People >

RS work session and regular meeting.

RS \*without both...

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George Sieburg

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that, I can say something publicly tomorrow morning to speak to public input. Liza, feel free to reach out to me individually if you want to discuss further. I'm around all afternoon - or we can talk tomorrow before the meeting.

65

Thu, Jun 29 at 12:41 PM

Food and nutrition staff were given



Text Message 



REBECCA SUMMER



Is this on the agenda yet?

James Carter

I haven't seen it on an updated agenda. George, will you move to amend the agenda at tonight's meeting?



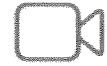
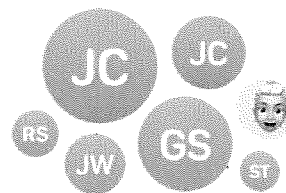
George Sieburg 



iMessage



12:57



7 People &gt;

Jim Causby

Your policy allows for public comment only at the regular monthly meeting. The Board would have to vote to add it at the special meeting. That might be considered unfair to other folks who are not there because they are unaware of the opportunity for public comment especially any wanting to sign up for virtual public comment. I have no objection to you allowing it but it is my job to warn you of possible repercussions. If the desire by someone to speak is on Food Services you might remind them that the only vote on that is the contract.

JC

George Sieburg



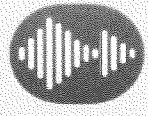
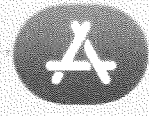
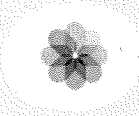
I tend to agree with you James. We've certainly had input from the community via email. And they can continue to reach out this way. And thank you Dr Causby for that perspective.



Rebecca Strimer

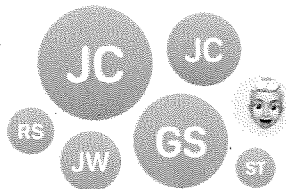


Text Message 





12:57



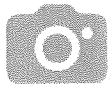
7 People &gt;

Rebecca Strimer



I see that technically these interpretations are correct. And I do not feel there has been adequate opportunity for public comment on this topic. Typically we discuss a matter in a work session and then people have the following regular meeting to make comment. In the situation of the Chartwells contract, we discussed it in a regular meeting, rather than the preceding work session, so there is no following regular meeting prior to the vote on the contract. My interpretation of this ask is that people are wanting to make comment about the vote on the contract. I also

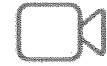
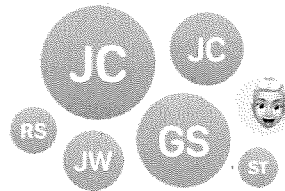
agree with Dr. Causby that a late addition of public comment will cause as many challenges as it alleviates. Going forward I hope we do not take consequential votes with both a work session and regular meeting.



Text Message



12:58



7 People

Liza Kelly

Food and nutrition staff were given the impression that Melissa Bates was legally unable to answer their questions about Chartwells. Was there a reason Melissa did not present to us today? I was curious why Georgia was at the podium and should have asked this at the time, but would like some clarity on this.



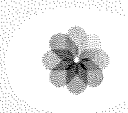
Jim Causby

There was no reason that Melissa was not presenting. Georgia was at the podium because this RFP process has been led by her. She has handled the work between my office and the attorneys on the contract addendum and that

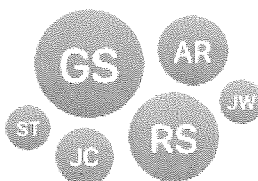
was what the agenda item was about. I have no knowledge of why Food Service staff felt that Melissa could not comment about legal requirements. Perhaps she implied that because she was not involved in the discussions on the contract addendum.



Text Message



4:06



ACS Board

Mon, Jun 12 at 11:36 AM

Rebecca Strimer



Do we have an agenda for tonight that includes the nutrition program proposals?

James Carter



Here is the process for tonight. There will not be "proposals" presented. The committee will make a determination after having the 3 presentations today and then Melissa will bring the committee's recommendation to the board. She will walk through process and answer any questions.



Hope this helps

Rebecca Strimer



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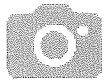


George Sieburg



I can do that.

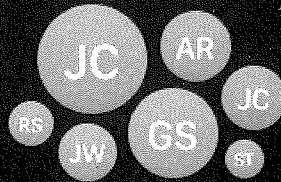
Sarah Thornbura



iMessage



11:33



7 People >

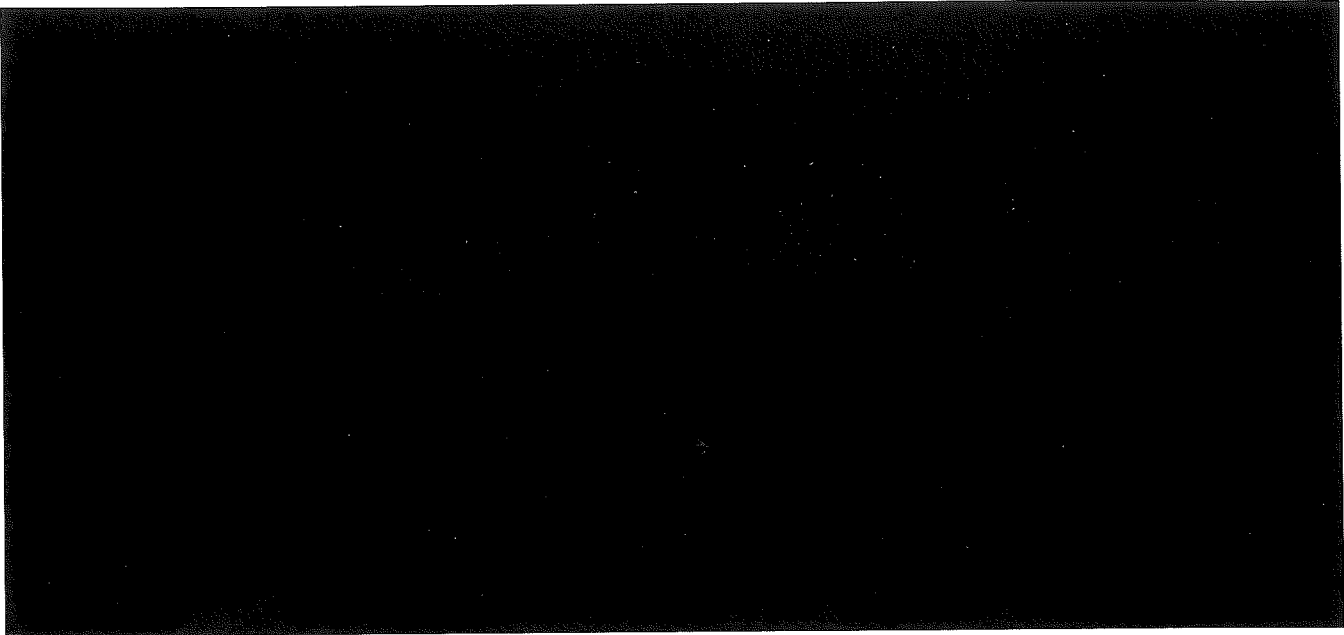
George Sieburg

Hi board and Dr Causby. I've heard from someone in the community asking about public comment tomorrow morning - particularly around the Chartwell's contract. I recognize this is a special called meeting, so we're not obligated to allow for public comment, and I also see that the next chance for public comment is not until mid August. I have no opinion either way, but if we're not adding public comment to the agenda for tomorrow morning, we should be prepared to explain why. Happy to hear thoughts.



I would love to hear public comment!

James Carter



12:53



ACS Board + Super



to get done!

Tue, Jul 18 at 4:13 PM

Maggie Fehrman

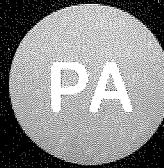


Chartwell held a small meet and greet that I was able to attend. They served a sample menu and I joined the team for lunch. It was pretty good. The team also seems to like it and think the kids will too

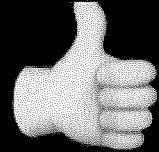




11:32



Pepi >



But we can have a HASP without Chartwells

It's a simple document

Our food & nutrition director has not sent out any RFPs for next year.

Will the food and nutrition director commit to only hire full time employees?

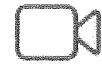
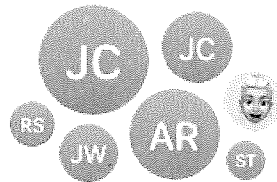
You are allowed to discuss a motion after it is moved.



Text Message



2:21 



7 People >

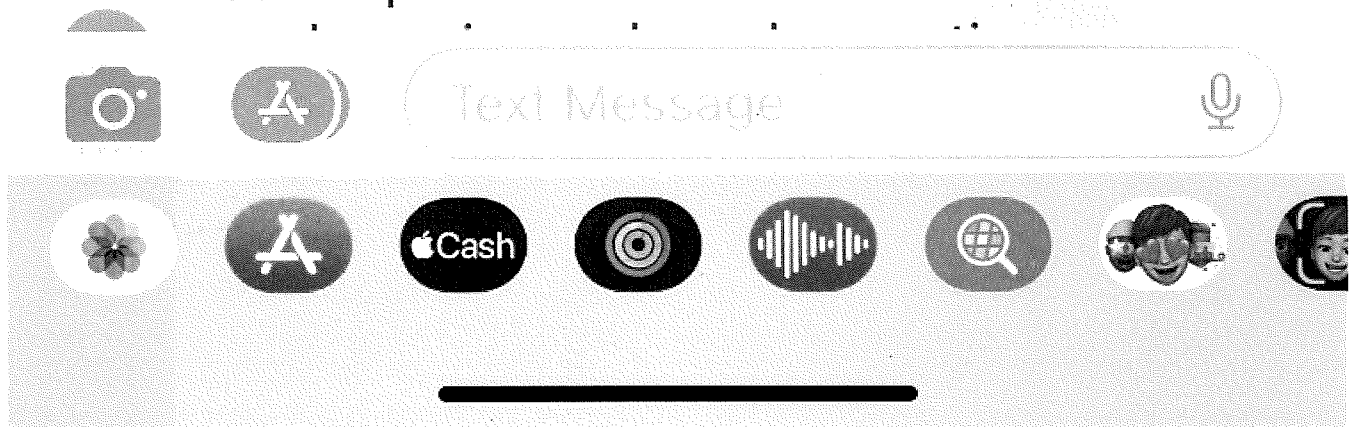
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2:20 



McKenna 

Hey! I actually had a couple questions for you about the Chartwells contract as I was reading it over so yes- can I call in the next 15 or so?

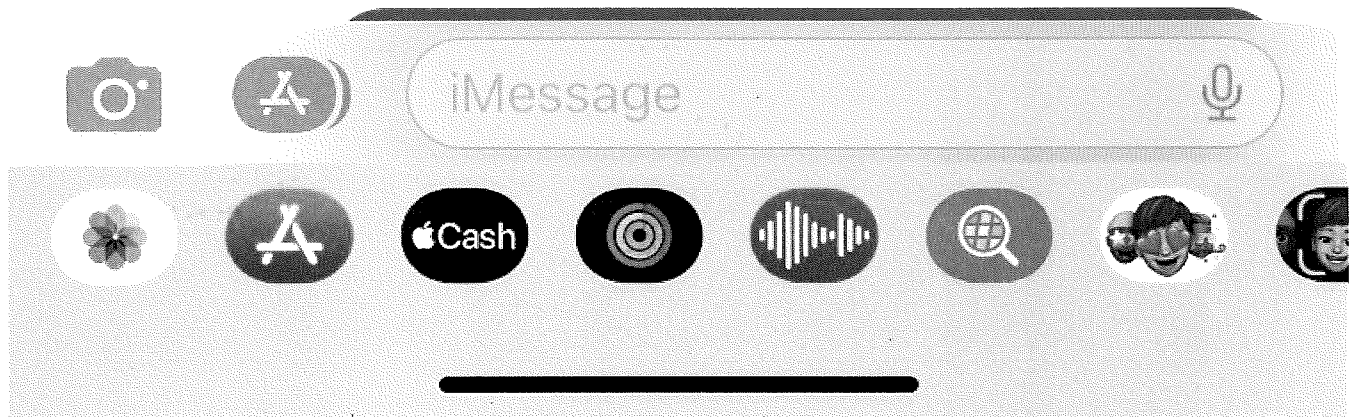
Sure!

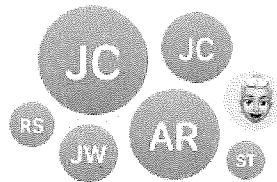
Fri, Jun 30 at 11:34 AM

Hey! Sorry I did to get to say hi yesterday. Just read your article about the vote. Glad you were able to confirm the details from Dillon (I assume). One thing: were there "many parents" who voiced their concern about child nutrition not being the place to save money? I only heard from one parent expressing this. Have you heard from others?

Hi! No worries at all. I actually spoke to several parents this past week who were voicing those concerns to me in the interview/ there were also some voicing this in a Facebook group!

But thanks for checking with me.



2:21 7 People 

Wed, Jun 28 at 1:06 PM

Hi board and Dr Causby. I've heard from someone in the community asking about public comment tomorrow morning - particularly around the Chartwell's contract. I recognize this is a special called meeting, so we're not obligated to allow for public comment, and I also see that the next chance for public comment is not until mid August. I have no opinion either way, but if we're not adding public comment to the agenda for tomorrow morning, we should be prepared to explain why. Happy to hear thoughts.

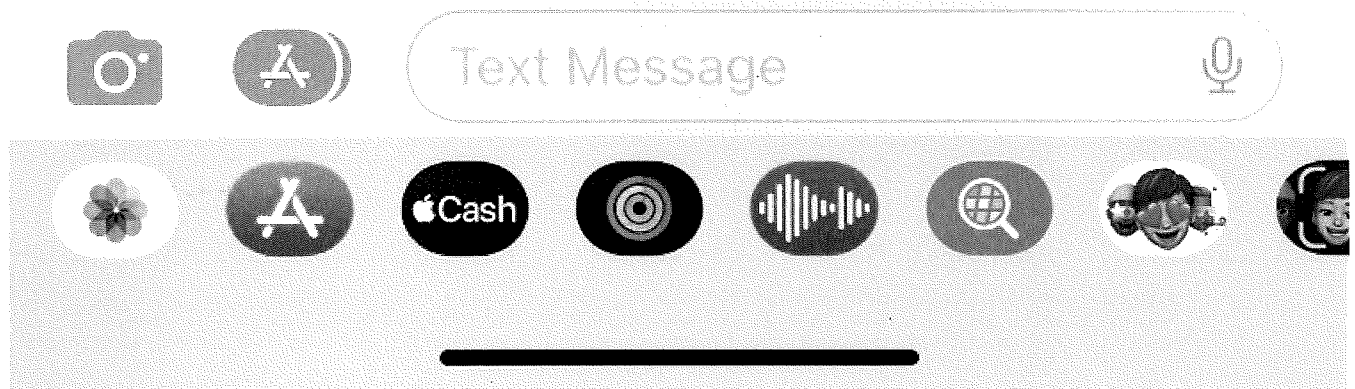
Liza Kelly



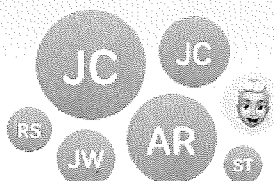
I would love to hear public comment!

James Carter

I will give my two cents on this. Our board policy and guidelines state that we have public comment at our regular schedule board meetings. If people want to share their comments, they can do so via email or phone calls. If we make an exception this time, we will be





2:21 7 People 

Food and nutrition staff were given the impression that Melissa Bates was legally unable to answer their questions about Chartwells. Was there a reason Melissa did not present to us today? I was curious why Georgia was at the podium and should have asked this at the time, but would like some clarity on this.



Jim Causby

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not comment about legal requirements. Perhaps she implied that because she was not involved in the discussions on the contract addendum.



Thu, Jun 29 at 6:42 PM

Sarah Thornburg

Hi everyone,  
forwarding this to everyone from

