

## **BathPublicSchools**

### **FoodServiceProgram**

February 25, 2008

As the FoodService Director for the Bath Schools let me first say that our primary commitment is always to the **health and well-being of the children in our school system**. We recognize and appreciate the trust you place in us to serve you.

You may have heard or read about the beef recall. The Bath Public Schools did receive hamburger patties made from some of the recalled beef from the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company and have withdrawn all of it from our supplies. I want to stress that none of the recalled beef or hamburgers have been found to be harmful or tainted in any way. And I want to assure everyone in our community that we have always been and will always be vigilant, **even obsessive**, about the safety of the food we serve to kids. We follow the strictest food safety standards and in the very rare event that we need to address a problem, we do so quickly and openly, as we have done here. Again, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our kids.

USDA recalled the beef because of serious violations of **procedures** by the processor in question. Like all Americans, we are distressed and upset about the revelations regarding this processor. The recall is what USDA calls a "Class Two" recall, meaning that none of the product has been found to be even potentially harmful.

We receive most of our food from commercial processors, many of whom are local. Food from the USDA commodity program makes up only about 14 % of the food we prepare and serve in our program, and we count on USDA to monitor the processors of that food and to act when problems are found. I think this recall shows that USDA is ready to act decisively, and we commend them for taking this sweeping action.

Again, I want to stress that nothing – **NOTHING** – matters more to us than the health and well-being of our children. We're here to provide the nutrition kids need to learn well, and whenever a question about food safety comes up, we will always act **immediately** in the best interest of our students.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 443-6601 ext 114 or by email at [dmacdowell@bathpublicschools.com](mailto:dmacdowell@bathpublicschools.com)