



*A Community of Learners*

**Information and Action Item: FY21 Student Fees**

TO: School Board  
Dr. Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

FROM: Brad Goldstein, CFO

February 25, 2020

**Overview & Background**

Student fees are an important source of revenue for public school districts. The fees are evaluated and adjusted annually. The evaluation considers the benefit, performance, and economics of the related programs and services. Benchmarking of similar fees charged by other surrounding districts is also part of the process.

This memo provides an overview and analysis of each student fee category and an administrative recommendation for the fee levels for FY21. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the various fees at the February 25, 2020, meeting. Any recommended changes to these fees can be discussed if needed, and the Board will be brought a final recommendation at March 17, 2020, meeting. Any extension of approval beyond that meeting may impact the timing of registration and payment of fees.

For reference purposes, a schedule of the current FY20 fee is attached to this memo and listed below.

**2019-2020 Student Fees**

**Activity Fees**

Kindergarten	\$125
Grades 1-3	\$190
Grade 4	\$275
Grades 5-6	\$200

Grades 7-8	\$200
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#### Optional Bus Fee

Two-Way	\$535 if paid by 6/28/19
Two-Way	\$635, if paid after 6/28/19
One-Way	\$310, if paid by 6/28/19
One-Way	\$360, if paid after 6/28/19

#### Optional MLI Device Coverage

Grades 5-8	\$25
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#### After-School Sports/Clubs

Elementary Schools	\$59 per semester
Skokie School	\$69 per semester
Skokie Climbing Club	\$64 per session

#### Carleton Washburne School Athletics

Volleyball	\$235
Basketball	\$435
Basketball Practice Squad	\$200
Cross Country	\$200
Track and Field	\$200
Intramural Basketball	\$135

#### On Deck! (Per Month)

	Before School	After School
5 days per week	\$244	\$433
4 days per week	\$233	\$371
3 days per week	\$214	\$311
2 days per week	\$191	\$238
Voucher	\$119	\$160
Please note that the bus fee for On Deck! is now included as part of the On Deck! Fee. A 10% discount will be applied for two children and a 25% discount for three or more children per household.		

## FY21 Fee Recommendations & Rationale

### Activity Fees

#### Background

Activity fees are used at the discretion of the principals to benefit students in a variety of ways. For example, funds are used to support field trip entrance fee and transportation costs, student planners, magazine subscriptions for Scholastic and Time,

outdoor education experiences, class parties, student locks, and some instructional supplies.

These fees have been sufficient to cover related expenses and with updated cost allocations approximate a breakeven position. When compared to other New Trier feeder schools with activity fees, the District's fee falls within a line with other Districts, other than fourth grade, where we do charge for outdoor education as part of the fee. In consideration of the various clubs and general activities and related costs offered by the District, the FY21 activity fees increase remains primarily within the benchmarked township range of fees. The Table below summarizes the current fee range, which Administration recommends are maintained with an increase by 1.9% to match the Consumers Price Index.

Grade Level	FY20 Actual	FY21 Proposed	FY20 Township Avg	FY20 Township Low
Kindergarten	\$125	\$127	\$134	\$105
Grades 1-3	\$190	\$194	\$173	\$106-125
Grade 4*	\$275	\$280	\$187	\$106
Grades 5-6	\$200	\$204	\$204	\$148-165
Grades 7-8	\$200	\$204	\$224	\$175

\*The higher rate for 4<sup>th</sup> grade relates to the cost of an outdoor education program for fourth graders.

## Recommendation

For FY21, Administration recommends that activity fees be increased by CPI or 1.9%.

## Transportation Fees

### Finance Sub-Committee

The School Board Finance Sub-Committee met on February 7, 2020, and discussed transportation costs and philosophies. It was recommended that the District make this optional transportation program for our families cost neutral over the next three years. A historic four-year analysis of transportation fees shows that cost recovery through fees has been an average of approximately 59.0% (exclusive of short-term kindergarten redistricting transportation costs).

Transportation fees have been benchmarked against other New Trier Township districts with the following results;

Categories	Recommend	Current Dist. 36	FY20 Township High	FY20 Township Avg
Two-Way before deadline	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$535</b>	\$575	\$528

Two-Way after deadline	\$800	\$635	\$675	\$603
One-Way before deadline	\$405	\$310	\$333	\$299
One-Way after deadline	\$455	\$360	\$383	\$349
Two-Way late fee	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$75
One-Way late fee	\$50	\$50	\$75	\$58

2019-2020	Revenues	80%	Increase	Revenues	90%	Increase	Revenues	100%	Increase
\$ 535 Two-Way	\$ 133,668.84	\$ 700.00	30.8%	\$ 150,377.44	\$ 790.00	12.9%	\$ 167,086.05	\$ 875.00	10.8%
\$ 310 One-Way	\$ 77,498.36	\$ 405.00	30.6%	\$ 87,185.66	\$ 460.00	13.6%	\$ 96,872.95	\$ 510.00	10.9%
	\$ 211,167.20			\$ 237,563.10			\$ 263,959.00		

The recommended two-way fee increase for FY21 is based on the finance sub-committee recommendation to move closer to ensuring that those utilizing transportation are bearing the cost related to transportation. Administration recommends phasing this in over three years to achieve 100% user based funding for transportation, moving to 80% this year, 90% next year, and 100% in FY23.

The late fees provide a reasonable operational, yet a small financial benefit since approximately 1% of families are late in paying. With the recommended fee increase to the 80% funding level for local transportation and the 5% increase in transportation rates from our bus company, it is projected that a 73.2% recovery rate will be achieved when combined with the special education cost factor. This would be a large increase from the 50.0% achieved last year, primarily driven by the cost increase.

### Recommendation

The Recommendation is that the Board approve the FY21 transportation fees as proposed at the 80% recovery rate for regular transportation.

## After School Sports/Clubs

### Background

These fees were established by the District to support activities at the three elementary schools and Skokie School. These activities are sponsored by teachers who are paid a pay rate based on the negotiated agreement with the Winnetka Education Association. The intent is to have the fees charged to cover the cost of the program.

The recommended fees for FY21 are based on achieving a breakeven point as previously calculated. The base increase in fees is based on the increase of CPI for the year plus a 1% factor for estimated supply costs. The CPI factor is the same factor used for contractual increases in the related costs of 1.9%. The table below summarizes the recommended fee changes.

Schools	FY20 Actual	FY21 Proposed
Elementary	\$59 per semester	\$60 per semester
Skokie	\$69 per semester	\$70 per semester
Skokie; climbing club	\$64 per session	\$65 per session

## Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the FY21 after school sports/club fees as proposed by Administration.

## Carleton Washburne School Athletics

### Background

Participation fees are assessed for the school's optional athletic programs. The fees cover the cost of coaches, transportation to games, scorekeepers, uniforms, supplies and supervision. Since most other competing schools have only one gym and Washburne generally has two traveling teams, two buses are needed to go to two different schools versus one bus to one school. This adds to the comparative costs of the traveling programs.

When compared to other New Trier feeder schools District athletic fees have been higher than the others historically. Some feeder Districts have borne the cost of these programs entirely within their operating funds. One District will begin instituting a fee this year with the goal of 30% cost recovery, and 50% within 3 years.

In FY 2018, Administration restructured fees so that the fee levels related to the high end of the benchmarked fees but remained competitive with surrounding districts. In FY19 the Board asked the Administration to leave fees flat. This has resulted in considerable reductions in the cost of participation in team sports and reasonable year-on-year increases in other athletic programs. In 2020 adjustments were made in consideration of the additional transportation factor. In addition, we had some large one time expenditures related to uniforms. We spent approximately \$16,000 this past year to replace uniforms for all programs other than volleyball. These uniforms replaced those purchased in 2009.

With the proposed fee levels, Administration believes the aggregate program will have a deficit of approximately \$16,000. Administration will work with the Athletic Director to work on some additional cost management. After evaluating the programs the proposed FY21 fee increases will be in line with CPI of 1.9%.

The following chart provides comparative fee analysis by athletic offering

Sport	FY20 Actual	FY21 Proposed	FY20 Township High	FY20 Township Avg
Basketball	\$435	\$444	\$435	\$359
Volleyball	\$235	\$240	\$250	\$206
Basketball Practice	\$200	\$204	n/a	n/a
Cross Country	\$200	\$204	\$200	\$120
Track & Field	\$200	\$204	\$200	\$133
Intramural Basketball	\$135	\$138	n/a	n/a

### **Recommendation**

The recommendation is to approve the FY 21 Carleton Washburne School Athletic fees as proposed by Administration.

## **EDK Extended Play Program**

### **Background**

The extended day kindergarten (EDK) program was implemented in FY18. The design of the program includes a fee based extended play program at the school that is available for parents to use for their children from 2:10 pm when the regular program ends until the regular school day ends. The costs associated with this program are related to the Classroom Associates that run this program as part of their daily duties. The proposed increase of 4.1% corresponds to the contractual increase for this staff.

For the 2020-2021 school year, administration recommends the following fee schedule for the EDK Extended Play Program.

EDK Extended Play Proposed FY21

5 days per week	\$1,475
4 days per week	\$1,350
3 days per week	\$1,250
2 days per week	\$1,135
1 day per week	\$1,020

### **EDK Extended Play Actual FY20**

5 days per week	\$1,415
4 days per week	\$1,300
3 days per week	\$1,200
2 days per week	\$1,090
1 day per week	\$980

## **Food Service**

### **Background**

The contract with Arbor Management Inc. to provide food services at Carleton Washburne School and provide milk and juice to students at the elementary schools is reviewed annually and prices established for the next school year. This year the Administration is going out for Request for Proposals to ensure that we have the best program in place for our students.

We will be publishing bid documents on February 27th, with a pre-bid meeting on March 13th and bids due on March 31st. We will then evaluate the programs that are offered and make a recommendation to the Board in April. This recommendation will include financial information regarding the program as well as recommended fees for the 2020-2021 school year.