



Information and Action Item Memo: *Adventures in Learning* Summer 2018 Program and Fee Approval

TO: School Board
Trisha Kocanda, *Superintendent*

FROM: Brad Goldstein, *CFO*
Linda Stone, *Site Director*

January 30, 2018

Overview & Background

The District has hosted a successful summer program, *Adventures in Learning*, for over seventy-five years. The last three summers, Meghan Warner, a teacher at The Skokie School, continued the tradition. This past year Meghan worked with Linda Stone to take over and she has agreed to serve as Site Director for the 2018 *Adventures in Learning* Program.

Adventures in Learning has a long standing tradition of providing engaging experiences designed by certified teachers and staff. Students may find themselves designing and making their own clothing and walking in a student lead fashion show in our Fashion Design Class; testing their survival skills and fire-building abilities in Wilderness Survival class; bonding with, and later adopting, a live animal in Animal Care. Drone Flight School was a new offering and was also a hit this past summer! These are just a few of the experiences that make *Adventures* special. This year we are also excited to continue offering such classes as Spa-licious, Coding or Kids, Creative Clay and Sculpting, and Fishing! We are proud to offer all of these classes as part of our commitment to enrich the lives of our community of learners.

The *Adventures* program served 646 students last summer with 123 students enrolled in the primary program (grades pre-k to 1), 523 students in the general program (grades 2 to 8), and 56 students enrolled as part of an Extended School

Year (ESY) experience for special education students. There were 91 class offerings and field trip enrichment opportunities for students over the duration of the 5 week program.

Participation in last year's program was lower than the 685 students that participated in the prior year, but in line with the projected number of 650 participants. The 2017 program resulted in a monetary shortfall of approximately \$13,000.

In planning for and structuring the 2018 summer program, the estimated participation of 650 students was determined in consideration of what is now perceived to be more representative participation levels achieved in 2017 and years prior to 2015. We attempt to keep the program current and fresh, as a result at least 5 new offerings have been added.

In addition to pursuing the cost reductions, Administration is also recommending an average 2.6% increase in fees for the 2018 summer program. This increase will result in a 2018 resident fee of \$575 and a non-resident fee of \$625 versus 2017 respective fees of \$560 and \$610. After implementation of these changes, the 2018 summer program is anticipated to operate on a cost neutral basis.

Administration believes that the 2018 Adventures program will continue to offer exciting and meaningful student experiences. The program will run from June 18th, 2018 through July 20th, 2018. The plan is for program offerings to be posted on our district website during the second week in February with open registration to begin in March for the 2018 Adventures summer school program. Families will be able to continue to register for Adventures online, which provides convenience for parents and efficiency for scheduling classes. The online registration has been improved to ensure the server can support the high demand at peak times. Based on suggestion by parents, we are also offering a one-week pre-registration access to Winnetka residents only starting March 1st, 2018.

Scholarships are available to families with financial need.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that the Board approve the continuation of the Adventures program during the summer of 2018 with updated offerings and an increase in fees to \$575 for residents and \$625 for non-residents.