



## School/Student Fees April 2, 2024

The Board has previously engaged with the topic of school fees as follows:

April 20, 2021 – Presentation on school/student fees made by Secretary Treasurer Scott Carleton

June 1, 2021 – Board passes the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approve the expenditure of \$240 000 for the purchase of classroom school supplies for every student in the 2021-22 school year.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT schools in Sunrise do not charge general student fees for school-wide activities. Fees may be charged for extra-curricular or for the purchase of personal items.

May 3 & 17, 2022 – Report on School Fees & Field Trip Fees provided by Cathy Tymko

June 21, 2022 – Recommendation on School Fees provided by Cathy Tymko and the Board passes the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approve a one-time allocation of \$25.00 per student from accumulated surplus to replace the collection of general student fees from families.

While the information related to specific fees and schools in previous reports may no longer be accurate, current fees being collected by schools will be of a very similar nature.

Other than prohibiting all school fees or conversely allowing schools to openly charge fees to students, providing direction to schools that will account for all the different situations and fees that may be charged will be very difficult. The reasons that schools may want to charge fees are quite varied. Previous discussion on this topic has undoubtedly identified fees that are inconsistent with the Boards desire to minimize expenses to families and has also identified fees that are appropriate given they provide students with extra opportunities at school.

The most important information to maintain in all conversations regarding fees collected from students and families is schools cover the cost of activities for students wishing to participate but who are unable to pay for an activity.

### **Recommendation:**

More time and conversation at the school and divisional level is likely needed before the Board renders a final decision on school/student fees. The use of precise language will be needed to help create clarity for schools and families. As a starting point the Board may want to consider the following:

1. Schools may charge school/student fees with permission of the superintendent.
2. Schools will cover the cost of fees for students wishing to participate but who are unable to pay for an activity. This should be communicated to students and families each time a fee is collected.
3. Schools should be directed to use SBDM or other school budget lines to support curricular programs in lieu of charging fees to students.
4. Fees tied to specific courses/activities should be kept to a minimum and not be charged from a desire to 'enrich' a course/activity (needs vs wants).
5. Fees may be appropriate when a student is pursuing an opportunity or project beyond what is expected of students.
6. Fees may be appropriate when a student is participating in a club or activity that has identified costs.
7. Fees may be appropriate when a particular piece of equipment is needed, can be kept by the student and the school can secure the items at a preferential cost (e.g. graphing calculator, safety glasses)
8. A distinction must be made between a school/student fee and a registration fee (e.g. high school hockey, high school lacrosse).
9. All fees should be collected to cover identified costs that are made clear to students and families.