

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS
Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs
Regular Meeting – Monday – February 22, 2010

TO: Dr. Mike Riggle

FROM: Hillarie Siena

DATE: February 22, 2010

RE: Approval of Student Fees for the 2010 – 2011 School Year

It is recommended that the Board of Education

Approve the student fees for the 2010 – 2011 school year, as attached. We are recommending no increase in student transportation fees, as well as a 50% reduction in student transportation fees for each sibling of a full paid rider. Additionally, we are recommending an increase in fees for Driver Education and parking stickers, as well as reinstatement of the towel and material fees.

Student Transportation

For the 2010/11 school year we are recommending no increase in student transportation fees. Although an increase would be necessary to maintain transportation on a cost neutral basis and to address the factors of projected ridership as well as a 1/10 % increase in rates from First Student, it is recommended that for the 2010/11 school year we maintain fees at the previous year's level. The objective in keeping fees flat is to maintain existing ridership levels, thereby ensuring the continued viability of the program.

- Registration period will run from April 5th – June 4th
- After June 4th, seats will be offered on a “space available basis” and based on existing stops and routes
- No new routes will be added after June 4th
- As has been common practice, we will offer a \$25 discount for anyone registering via the Internet

In 2008/09 the board approved a revision to Section C, #10 of Board Policy Procedures 8230: Food Service and School Aid for Children of Low Income Families, which allows for a 50% reduction PER FAMILY for the cost of a bus pass for those families that qualify as “reduced” when applying for financial aid.

Driver Education Fees

We are recommending an increase in fees for Driver Education of \$100, bringing the fee to \$350, which is the maximum amount allowed under our current waiver. Please see the attached Recommendations and Discussion memo for further information.

Parking Sticker Fees

We are recommending an increase of \$15 for parking sticker fees. This reflects a 6% increase, which is based upon current market increases for paving and resurfacing of the parking lots.

Towel and Material Fees

Last fiscal year, due to economic conditions, the Board of Education waived the towel and material fees for one year, saving each student \$25.50. The cost to the district was \$119,850. It is recommended that these fees be reinstated for FY2010/11. This reinstatement is necessary to cover costs without necessitating an increase in other student fees, with the exception of parking stickers and pre-school.

Board Approved Student Fees for the 2010/2011 School Year

FY11- APPROVED

Driver Education Fee for Behind the Wheel	\$350 *See note below
Instrument Rental Fee	\$20 per semester
Towel Fee	\$10.50
Materials Fee	\$15.00
Student Parking Sticker	\$285 full year \$142 @ semester
Pre-School Registration Fee	\$50 non-refundable
Pre-School Tuition Fee	\$642 GBN semester** \$483 GBS semester**
NSF Check Fee	\$30
Transportation	From April 5th - June 4th \$675*** NO INCREASE After June 4th \$800*** NO INCREASE

***The driver's education fee must be paid at the time student registers for the class. Once the fee is paid it becomes a "no-drop course", unless another student can be placed in the spot vacated.**

**** Glenbrook employees receive 20% discount**

*****On-line discount of \$25 applies to all bus registration transactions**

HS/lbw

pc: Board of Education

Attachments

Recommendations and Discussion

Legislative Recommendations

The following recommendation proposes amendments to the School Code in the area of driver's education fees.

Driver Education

Section 27-24.2 (formerly Section 27-23) of the School Code authorizes school districts to charge up to \$50 for students participating in a driver's education course. The General Assembly has approved 274 petitions from 153 school districts since May 1996 seeking to raise this \$50 limit. Of the 40 petitions receiving approval during the last two waiver reports, 30 were renewals of previously approved requests; in those cases, six districts asked for approval to increase the fee over the amount previously approved.

Requests to raise driver's education fees are the third most common type of waiver request, after holidays and daily physical education. (Fee requests share third place with waivers for administrative expenditure limits.) The number of these applications, and the maximum fees requested, strongly indicate that many school districts believe the \$50 fee is insufficient to fund driver's education programs, and they are seeking ways to cover the shortfall in revenues by charging students more to take the course. Up until May 2003, the General Assembly considered fewer than 10 requests in each report. There was a substantial increase in petitions during 2004 and while numbers have varied since then, the last five years have seen 143 petitions to raise fees, with 52 percent of these requests involving a fee greater than \$250 per student. Indeed, only 12 percent of districts with waivers still in effect have asked to limit the fee to \$150 or less. The General Assembly has approved seven requests to charge up to \$450 per student and eight requests to charge up to \$500.

The majority of the requests that have been approved – 65 percent – are from districts located in Cook County and the five collar counties or districts in or near urban centers such as Rockford, Bloomington, and the metro-east area.

Given that the law establishing the \$50 maximum is more than 20 years old and that of all driver education fee waiver requests approved, 52 percent have been approved in the past five years, the State Board recommends to the General Assembly that (1) the fee limit be eliminated, thus allowing districts to set the fee in response to local conditions, but that (2) the district set a fee only after providing appropriate advance notices and holding a public hearing in order to take comments from parents, other community members, and affected teachers and staff members.

Source of Information:

Summary of Approved Waivers and Modifications

Cumulative Report -- 1995 – 2009

Illinois State Board of Education Rules and Waivers Division

February 2010

<http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/pdf/cumulativewaiver.pdf>

District 225 first applied for a driver education fee waiver in FY2005. Our current waiver is valid through FY2014 and carries a maximum of \$350. The district's state reimbursement for driver education has been reduced from \$63,000 to \$52,000, resulting in an \$11,000 loss in state funding. The current FY2010 budget for driver education fees is \$65,000, bringing total budgeted revenue for driver education to \$117,000. This represents approximately 20% of total program costs. The recommended increase in fees to the maximum of \$350 per student covers an additional 6% of total program costs (based on 273 students enrolled in FY2009).