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To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: February 24, 2025
Subject: SY 2025-2026 Tentative Proposed Fee Schedule Discussion

As part of our budget and planning process for next school year, we are presenting a tentative, preliminary fee schedule for discussion (see attached). These fees would be published as part of our spring and summer registration process that begins in early April and continues into the school year. We typically present this tentative fee schedule in February. Then, with feedback from the Board, we prepare a finalized fee schedule recommendation for the Board to consider and approve in March. Once approved, we will use the finalized fee schedule in our registration process, which begins in April.

You may remember that we implemented a technology fee for all grade levels several years ago (\$25 for grades K-2, who had expanded access to technology but not individual one-to-one devices, and \$40 for grades 3-8, who were allocated individual one-to-one Chromebooks). However, due to COVID-19 and the need to provide and send home individual devices for every student, we standardized the technology fee four years ago at \$50 for all K-8 students. We also added optional device damage insurance (\$20 per year) for grades 3-8, who were assigned the same Chromebooks all year. However, now that we are giving all K-8 students their own Chromebooks and allowing them to take the devices back and forth from school to home, there is an increased need for insurance coverage due to transport accidents and other damage. We, therefore, implemented a district-paid, self-insurance program for all student devices four years ago (the current \$15 annual premium cost is now part of our \$50 technology fee). Our fee is still on the low end of the Technology Fee Range for school districts in DuPage County, especially if you consider that it includes device insurance coverage, based on a survey done two years ago. We are not recommending a change in the technology fee at this time.

Other than for inflationary cost adjustments that might occur for “reimbursable or pass-through charges” for things such as Reorders, PE uniforms, Caps & Gowns, etc., we are not recommending any increases in registration fees this year. All fees would remain the same for the next school year. We would again offer a 50% “early bird discount” for any family who



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registers AND pays their fees prior to June 1st. All low income students identified as free lunch can receive a fee waiver and do not have to pay registration fees or breakfast and lunch fees, as applicable. We also coordinate the collection of other fees and pass through expenses via our fee schedule to simplify the process for parents and to reduce collection responsibilities for the individual schools and grade levels (if we can consolidate the payment of these fees through the registration process and avoid having parents pay individually for all of this different stuff at the school/grade level, it is easier and less hassle and headache for everyone...and we can usually get a better deal by consolidating our purchasing through the District Office). All other required and optional fees would remain the same for next year, except where noted.

Finally, we are estimating that the cost of meal prices will increase by about 10%-20% based on the initial results of our Food Service RFP last year, and we will be finalizing those per meal charges this spring with the recommendation of a Food Service Management Company (to be determined in April or May). Two years ago, we reverted back to the Federal NSBP/NSLP format with Free/Reduced/Paid meal prices being charged and students having to pay for their meals accordingly (they had all been free from March 2020 through June 2022, due to COVID). These meal fees are not typically paid until closer to the start of the school year, so we will have time to communicate the finalized prices to our families later this spring and summer. Therefore, these meal prices are only estimated at this time. We typically try to break even on our food service program, maybe finishing a little in the black so we can cover district operating expenses and any capital outlay needs or one-time expenses that might be incurred from time to time.

Please advise us regarding your thoughts about the proposed tentative fee schedule and we will then finalize the schedule and prepare a recommendation accordingly for the March Board Meeting. As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.