



memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: February 20, 2026
Subject: School Year 2026-2027 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 on into the following school year. We typically present this tentative fee schedule in February, and 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 use the finalized fee schedule in our registration process that begins in early April. Next year we propose moving up the discussion and action cycle up to January and February to accommodate our online registration setup process, per the request of our IT Department.

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 COVID19 and the need to provide and send home individual devices for every student, we standardized the technology fee five years ago at \$50 for all K-8 students, added device insurance, and rolled this cost into our general registration fee, as all students are/were assessed the same amount annually (to simplify things and minimize the separate bills and charges that our parents received). Our fee is still on the low end of the Registration Fee Range for school districts in DuPage County, especially if you consider that it includes a technology fee and device insurance coverage, based on a survey done a few years ago. At this time we are not recommending changing the technology fee component, but we are for general registration fees.

Discounting the year we consolidated the technology fee into our regular registration fee (2020-21), we have only increased registration fees once since I arrived (in 2020-2021 by 5%). We have not raised the registration fee for five years and it is now time to consider a small increase. Instead of adjusting the fee every year by a little bit to keep up with inflation, we

memo

usually bump it up in even increments less frequently. We have always adjusted any “pass through” fees annually, based on our actual costs, if applicable. These fees are for things like Recorders, PE uniforms, Caps & Gowns, the 8th Grade Boat Trip, etc., and we would do that again this year. We are suggesting a \$10 increase to the K-3 fee (to \$120), a \$10 increase to the 4-6 fee (to \$150), and a \$20 increase to the 7-8 fee (to \$270)...that equates to a 9% increase for K-3 students, a 7% increase for 4-6 students and an 8% increase for 7-8 students, that when spread out over five years is less than 2% per year (ie. much less than the rate of inflation). We would again offer a 50% “early bird discount” for any family who 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 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 throughout the year, 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). We are also proposing some changes to our facility rental fees, and related pass-through expenses, as noted on the fee schedule (has not been done in nine years). Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Finally, we are estimating that meal prices will increase by about 4.5% - 5.0% next year, based on the “CPI-U Food Away From Home” inflationary factor for 2025, provided by the US Department of Labor Statistics (that is our contract escalator factor). These meal fees are not typically paid until closer to the start of the school year, so we will have time to finalize and communicate these prices to our families later this spring/summer. They will be around \$3.15 for breakfast, \$5.00 for lunch, \$2.50 for an additional entrée and \$.35 for milk, with a 50 cent markup for adult breakfasts and lunches. We typically just 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 one-time capital outlay needs or equipment repair expenses that might be incurred.

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.