

DATE: June 21, 2010

RE: Fee Increases

This Memo outlines the proposed and then the voted fee increases for September 1, 2010.

Attached are the proposed fee increases that were discussed at a subcommittee meeting on Monday, June 14 and approved for full School Committee consideration. School Committee voted these increases at the June 21, 2010 School Committee meeting. Included are a few general comments from the subcommittee meeting which put the increases in context:

Bus Transportation: The current bus system includes three buses providing services to the Hosmer and Middle Schools. State law requires free bus transportation for students in K-6 living more than 2 miles from a school. School Committee policy reduced this to 1.5 miles from the Hosmer, and it also provides transportation for a fee if a student lives further than .75 miles from the Hosmer or the Middle School. In addition, since the closing of the Parker School on the southside, students from the southside attending the Hosmer have received bus service without a fee.

In FY10, 152 students paid to receive bus service, 103 students paid a reduced fee or no fee due to income level, and 60 students were eligible for free transportation because of their distance from the school or living on the southside.

The current fee structure of \$180/student and \$250 family cap has not changed for at least six years. Many neighboring districts have higher fees, and the costs of providing bus service are far beyond the amount raised through fees. The subcommittee recommends raising the fee to \$270/student with a \$425 family cap. This is a 50% increase in the individual rate and a slightly higher percentage increase for the family cap. The subcommittee also recommends that students living on the southside should contribute some level of support. Thus, the subcommittee recommends a fee of \$100/student and \$160 family cap for students living on the southside.

Middle School Sports/Activity Fee: The subcommittee recommends raising the athletic fee to \$100/student. The subcommittee concluded that most parents would likely support a higher fee if it helps to continue some level of sports programming at the Middle School. A review of fees in other communities indicates that \$25 is relatively low.

Pre-School Fees: The Pre-School program includes a number of offerings of varying lengths. Based upon a comparison with several other school districts and a general comparison to the private sector, it was concluded that our rate structure is relatively low. Fees have not been changed for several years. The proposed changes add between \$200 and \$400/year to the existing fees.

WATERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 FY2011 FEES
 AS APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE, June 21, 2010

2009-2010

**New for
 2010-2011**

BUS	180 per child/250 family cap	270 per child/425 family cap 100/160 southside
MS	25 per child, unlimited sports & activities	100 per child, unlimited sports & activities; 25 per child activities only
Operating Budget TOTAL		

PRESCHOOL		
9 hour program	2,300	2,500
10 hour program	2,400	2,600
12 hour program	2,600	2,900
25 hour program	5,500	5,900
TOTAL (to be used for additional Pre-School staffing)		

Note: All fees have provisions for waiver or reduction based on financial need.