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February 1, 2018

To: Dr. Jauch

From: Beth Dever

BD

Re: School Fees for FY 2019



Beth Dever
Chief School Business Official
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Books and materials fees help offset the annual cost of instructional supplies, workbooks, textbooks and online resources for all of our curriculums. This fee also includes the cost of a yearbook at \$25 for each student and an extra-curricular fee of \$25 for students in 1st-8th grades. Technology fees help offset costs of laptops, iPads, iPods, promethean boards, software, subscriptions and the supplies and maintenance needed for all of these items. Families that are approved for free lunch have their book and tech fees waived. Bus fees are charged for round trip service, one-way service and for field trips when we are already collecting some type of admission fee. This year we have 431 bus riders with 151 paying and 280 in a no pay area. There are 94 students using the one-way option with 73 paying and 21 in a no pay area. Our overall number of riders increased slightly from last year. Bus fees are only waived for families receiving state assistance that are directly certified by ISBE. We are currently leasing nine buses that are between one and five years old. At this point in time, we have collected about 93% of our books and materials and technology fees and all of our bus fees for FY 18.

The Avoca Finance Committee met in January to discuss books and materials, technology and bus fees for the upcoming school year. We reviewed the attached township comparisons and our own Avoca student fee history. We discussed how we compare within the township and our fee structure. Our books and materials fees are significantly lower than the other districts in the township with the exception of Sunset Ridge. Our technology fees are higher than other districts in general but we are the only one to offer a family discount. Avoca's bus fees are the lowest in the township and we are the only district offering a family discount. Our bus fees collected currently support about 18% of our transportation costs for regular education programs. Some of our surrounding districts collect at a much higher percentage than Avoca. This means we are using more local tax dollars to pay for our transportation program than other districts. Based upon our review and

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is to maximize the unique potential
of each child."*

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the district's financial condition, we are making the following recommendations:

- Change the name of Books and Materials Fees to Instructional Fees to better reflect what is purchased with these funds
- Increase Instructional Fees by \$15 per student
- No change recommended for the technology fees
- Change the structure of the bus fees to two tiers vs four tiers
- Increase bus fee per student for round trip service by \$20
- Increase bus fee per student for one-way service by \$10
- No change recommended for the field trip fee
- Transfer the credit card processing fee to parents

The finance committee worked hard to find a reasonable amount to increase fees in order to continue to provide the resources students currently have while being sensitive to the increased cost per household. The increase in instructional and transportation fees will increase revenues by about \$10,000 and \$3,750 respectively. Transferring the credit card fee from the district to the parents will save the district approximately \$10,000 per year. RevTrak currently charges 3.5-3.6% depending on the type of credit card that is used. Parents will be able to pay by cash or check for their student fees without any processing charge. This is the same policy that was implemented this school year with the lunch fees. The finance committee will present this recommendation to the full board at the February 5, 2018 COW meeting and ask the board to vote on the final recommendation at the February 22, 2018 BOE meeting.

Please see me if you have any questions.

Thanks