



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

164 S. Prospect Avenue

Park Ridge, IL60068-4079

(847) 318-4300

FAX: (847) 318-4351

For information, contact:
Superintendent Sally Pryor, 847-318-4300
Bernadette Tramm, Public Information Coordinator, 847-318-4343

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School District 64 Community Finance Committee presents student fees study

The Community Finance Committee (CFC) of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 presented an in-depth review of student fees to the Board of Education at its February 9 meeting. The four-month study was undertaken by the CFC's Spend Management study group of Kent Bergren, Jun Lim and Dave Govertsen guided by CFC coordinator Craig Elderkin. District 64 Business Manager Bruce Martin and Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Diane Betts collaborated on the project.

"The student fees study is an excellent example of the support the CFC can provide to the District in researching and studying a specific financial topic in depth," said Superintendent Sally Pryor. "We are very thankful for their time and expertise in working with us to analyze data and to survey our neighboring districts," she added.

District 64's student fee schedule has developed over time, the CFC reported. Parents are asked to assume the cost of many expenses related to their student's activities. These include mandatory fees paid by all parents, such as textbooks, technology and supplies. Other fees are based on their child's specific schedule, such as instrumental music, elementary lunch supervision and interscholastic sports.

The CFC examined revenue and expense data for most student fees, and calculated how well the fees are covering District 64's direct expenses. Broadening its scope, the CFC also surveyed seven peer school districts about their student fee practices to provide additional perspective to the Board. The CFC offered several alternatives to the District's fee philosophy and structure, and on communicating about fees to parents and taxpayers for further consideration.

District 64 administrators will respond to the CFC report at the February 23 Board of Education meeting. Following that review, a schedule of student fees for 2009-10 will be presented for adoption at the March 9 Board of Education meeting.

More than 30 local residents and staff members serve on the CFC, which also has study groups on communications, legislation and financial structure. The complete student fee report and other CFC materials are available via the Community Finance Committee page of the District 64 Web site: www.d64.org.