



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

March 22, 2019

To: School Committee  
Re: Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020 Fees & Tuitions

At your last meeting on March 13, Mr. Collins presented a variety of options for potential changes to fees and tuitions that families pay for various services, programs, or activities that are optional in some manner. At that time, I indicated that I would be making my recommendations for adjustments in advance of your March 27 meeting, and this memorandum contains these recommendations. Please refer to the materials from your March 13 meeting for detailed information regarding these tuitions and fees.

## **Transportation Fee**

Due to a second consecutive year of rising daily bus rates connected to a recently bid contract (13% increase in FY20, which is year two of the contract), I recommend that the bus fee rate increase from \$300 per student to \$310 per student, which represents a 3.3% increase. This is estimated to generate approximately \$23,496 in additional revenue. If this increase is approved, it is estimated that the transportation fee revenue for bus transportation for students who are not legally mandated to be transported will be approximately \$735,500 and would represent approximately 26% of the entire district cost of busing students to and from school.

## **Athletic Fee**

As we will experience normal inflationary costs associated with the athletic program, as well as increased transportation costs, I recommend that the athletic fee rate be increased from \$310 to \$315 per sport per season, which represents a 1.6% increase. This is expected to generate approximately \$5,568 in additional revenue. If the increase is approved, it is estimated that the athletic fee revenue would be approximately \$353,500 and would represent approximately 46% of the entire district cost of providing high school interscholastic athletics.

## **Activity Fee**

I recommend that there be no change to the Sherwood Middle School activity fee (remaining at \$50); the Oak Middle School activity fee (remaining at \$75); and the Shrewsbury High School activity fee (remaining at \$100). The revenue from activity fees would be approximately \$111,500 and would represent approximately 42% of the entire district cost of providing various clubs and co-curricular activities at Sherwood, Oak, and SHS, including interscholastic athletics at Oak.

### **Preschool Tuition**

In order to keep up with rising costs, I recommend a 3% increase in the tuition rate for all preschool programs, which is expected to generate approximately \$17,250 in additional revenue. A typical three-day per week program would increase from \$2,743 to \$2,825 per year, an increase of \$82. If the increase is approved, it is estimated that the preschool tuition revenue would be approximately \$592,000 and would represent approximately 45% of the entire district cost of providing preschool programming.

### **Full Day Kindergarten Tuition**

The School Committee has established a goal of providing universal access to full day, tuition free kindergarten when space becomes available as a result of the Beal building project. In order for the district to responsibly wean itself from the tuition funding coming out of families' pockets, the district is stepping down the tuition rate over time so that the district does not have to absorb a shift in cost to the appropriated budget all at once when the shift is eventually made to providing full day kindergarten. I recommend a 33% reduction in full day kindergarten tuition, from \$3,600 to \$2,400 annually, for the second year of this plan. This is expected to result in a \$143,104 decrease in tuition collections. If the decrease is approved, it is estimated that the kindergarten tuition revenue would be approximately \$455,000 and would represent approximately 29% of the entire district cost of providing full-day kindergarten programming.

While I would much prefer not to be requiring any fees or tuition from Shrewsbury families at all, these are critical funding sources for our school district. I believe the recommendations above are reasonable given the rising costs that the associated programs face, and that they will help avoid steep one-year increases in the future if the funding ratio should fall behind and create significant pressure on the appropriated budget.

I look forward to answering any questions you have at the March 27 meeting.