

Office of Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. John Schwanke and Mr. Roger Dunham
Athletic and Co-Curricular Activities Committee

FROM: John N. Werner
Supervisor of District-Wide Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

RE: Participation Fee

DATE: January 31, 2006

Some concerns that have been referred to our office from each of our attendance areas are noted below:

- A participation fee could certainly affect participation levels. Many coaches and directors recruit students to be part of their programs. To try to convince a student to participate and then tell them it will cost a fee may inhibit their willingness to participate.
- Booster organizations who already contribute significantly to our programs may be asked to help defray these expenses for some of our student-participants. This may in turn decrease the financial support they can offer our teams and bands.
- Perhaps we should consider waiving or reducing a participation fee for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. This may create record keeping issues as well as confidentiality concerns.
- Perhaps we should consider waiving or reducing a participation fee for students from families with more than one child participating in activities. This may create record keeping issues.
- Even though our fee is termed a "participation fee", there may be a perception that if a parent pays for their child to be part of a team, they may expect a certain level of playing time.
- Perhaps we could consider a two-tiered fee structure with junior high activity fees being less than senior high fees. The reasoning being that we may encourage participation at that level and the expense of those programs is less.
- Our faculties relate to us that many times a student's behavior and academic success are better during his/her athletic season. If participation is decreased, potential student-athletes or student-musicians would lose that advantage.
- Some of our athletic programs do have to reduce their rosters by cutting less capable student-athletes. It may be viewed with displeasure if a student-athlete was cut from a team after he/she paid a participation fee.
- All families currently pay some expenses for their children to participate - pre-participation physicals, shoes, braces, some practice gear, travel

JW/wn