



CARDINAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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May 15, 2017

Pay to Participate Clarification Fall Sports/Activities 2017

On behalf of the Cardinal Local Schools Board of Education I would like to take some time to address some of the confusion that has been generated via social media and the discussions taking place in the community regarding Pay to Participate Fees.

I believe it is important to first connect the dots from the November 2016 levy loss to the May levy victory. Leading up to the November election there was discussion amongst the Board regarding Pay to Participate Fees. Discussion was focused on what would happen to fees if the levy passed and if the levy failed. It was stated that if the November levy passed then Fall 2017 Pay to Participate fees would most likely remain the same (that was part of the discussion not a promise to the community) but if the levy failed the fees would be impacted and most likely be increased. Unfortunately, the levy failed. At that time I communicated and shared publicly that fees would increase to \$1000.00 per sport/activity. In fact, I made that recommendation to the board in the Spring. The board voted 5 - 0 against my recommendation. The ensuing discussion centered on setting a fee that would actually cover the cost of the sport/activity with deadlines attached. The fees ONLY cover the coach/advisor salary and transportation costs and does not pay for supplies, uniforms, field maintenance, etc.

At the same time, in the spring, the board briefly discussed the Fall Sports fees. It was determined that we would follow a similar process and we would collect the necessary data to set fees in May. Following the same process, the board would use actual 2017 Fall Sports cost, set a minimum number of participants, and set a fee. At NO time was there discussion about using any proceeds from the May levy to maintain the previous year's fee level.

The May levy passage WILL NOT generate any money for the district until February of 2018. In fact, the 1.7 million dollars only allows the district to be able to operate in the black. In no way does this represent "extra" money.

The news of the \$1000.00 recommendation reached many Huskie alumni and generated quite a bit of interest about our plight. We received many donations that helped us to cover the cost of spring sports.

*Dr. Scott J. Hunt, Superintendent | Merry Lou Knuckles, Treasurer
Board President: Ken Klima | Board Vice President: Wendy Anderson
Board Members: Greg McClain, Linda Smallwood, Katie Thomas*



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In addition, many groups internally rallied to fundraise for their respective teams and our support organizations also donated to the cause.

During this time we met with a large group of booster members and interested individuals from all of our support organizations to generate fundraising ideas. We are scheduled to meet with those groups next week to determine what 2 or 3 ideas will generate the most money. The expectation is that all groups will unify around those two or three fundraisers to contribute a percentage of proceeds to the reduction/elimination of fees.

There is also confusion about team fundraising. Teams are permitted to fundraise for their team as long as the proper paperwork and approvals are in place. For example, the golf team can still hold a golf outing. The proceeds could be used to purchase necessary items for the team or proceeds could help to offset the Pay to Participate fee. That is up to the coach/team to determine.

We are also working with our alumni group to leverage the alumni network to help us in the effort to reduce/eliminate fees. We plan to discuss setting up a vehicle (nonprofit or foundation) to collect donations specifically for Pay to Participate fee reduction/elimination.

We appreciate your patience and willingness to be part of the solution moving forward. If you have specific questions about fees please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Dr. Scott J. Hunt
Superintendent