

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 20, 2011

AGENDA
ITEM No. 11-06-(2)-10

ACTION: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Student Fees Approval

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Denise Morton PHONE: 919 732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Additional Information on Student Fees
2. Additional Information on Parking Fees
3. Auditor's recommendation for the depositing of band student fees
4. Memorandum from School Board Attorney

PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Education (BOE) additional background information which was requested on high school band, parking and driver's education fees.

BACKGROUND: On May 16, 2011, staff presented for the BOE review and approval, the proposed student fees for the 2011-2012 school year. After discussion, the BOE approved all of the student fees with the exception of the high school band and parking fees. They requested that staff provide them with further information on:

- what the band fees were used for,
- if there was a mechanism in place to offer financial assistance to students who wanted to participate in band but had demonstrated financial hardship
- where band fees were deposited – in a school account or the band booster's account
- what parking fees were used for at the school and district level

The Board of Education also requested information on the possibility of having to charge a fee for drivers education due to the state budget shortfall and the potential cuts to the district's drivers education budget. Based on staff analysis, we are not recommending changes for Drivers Education for the upcoming school year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Based on the state's final budget, there may be the potential to require that eligible students pay a driver's education fee for the 2012-2013 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education:

- Approve the high school band and parking fees for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Approve the recommendation that each middle and high school band program establish a school-level account where student fees collected for the band program are deposited
- Not charge a fee for students enrolled in Drivers Education for the 2011-2012 school year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON STUDENT FEES

1. Band fees are spent on the following items:

Concert band - \$70.00

- Both schools – to purchase a dress or full tuxedo – one time purchase

Marching Band - \$200.00 (returning members)

- Tee shirts
- Uniform Maintenance (dry cleaning)
- Friday night game food
- Transportation to events
- Drill books
- Contracted fees for guard and percussion instructors
- Band guard fee

Marching Band – New Members – one time purchases \$50.00

- \$35 – shoes (Cedar Ridge Only)
- \$15 – golf shirt (Cedar Ridge Only)
- \$30 - Shoes/Gloves (OHS ONLY)
- \$30 - Clothing Pack (OHS as needed)

Marching Band Guard and Percussion (OHS Only)

\$30 – consumables specific to Guard and Percussion Sections

2. How do you inform students that financial assistance is available through the Band Boosters Club?

Both schools provide this information at the Band meeting held at each Curriculum Night, when recruiting at middle schools, at the spring parent meeting, and with any parent of a student who may come in after the school year has started. OHS Band Boosters provided 7 scholarships this past year and CRHS provided 5 scholarships this past year.

3. When band directors collect fees, where are they deposited?

The monies collected at both schools are deposited via band booster accounts located at Community Bank.

4. How are parking fees used at the school level and local level?

- A. School level – See attachment
- B. District level – See attachment

5. Driver's education potential fees

The house budget indicated that the district would receive \$116,528.00 for driver's education funding for the 2011-2012 school year. The projected reduction amount for Orange County Schools would be \$57,400. For the 2010-2011 school year, the drivers' education program served 521 students. Staff is not recommending a charge be assessed for the 2011-2012 school year.

Cedar Ridge High School Parking Fees

	2009-2010		2010-2011	
	Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits
Parking Fees Collected		\$ 19,230.00		\$ 18,725.00
Maintenance, Mowing, etc.	\$4,015.54		\$9,383.95	
Custodial Supplies	\$255.12		\$538.37	
Parking Stickers	\$456.00		\$462.00	
Staff Development, Subs	\$476.58		\$1,306.89	
Student Supplies	\$3,523.08		\$516.51	
Office Supplies	\$1,813.20		\$498.38	
*Staff Expenses	\$9,250.98		\$3,449.33	
Payment OC Schools**	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$27,790.50		\$24,155.43	
BALANCE		\$ (8,560.50)		\$ (5,430.43)

(*hospitality, staff/department meeting expenses, etc.)

Orange High School Parking Fees

	2009-2010		2010-2011	
	Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits
Parking Fees Collected		\$ 23,168.00		\$ 23,651.50
6 Radios/6 Batteries	\$ 1,658.90			
Parking Stickers			\$ 598.66	
Payment OC Schools**	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	
Club Sponsorship (OCS)	\$ 12,548.52			
Home Depot - Landscape Timbers	\$ 817.23			
Orange High School - Truck/Fuel	\$ 222.03			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 23,246.68		\$ 8,598.66	
BALANCE AS OF 5/6/11		\$ (78.68)		\$ 15,052.84

**The revenue collected from both high schools is used to balance the district's local budget. Any unused funds at the end of the fiscal year revert to Fund Balance.



ANDERSON SMITH & WIKE PLLC

Certified Public Accountants

To: Donna Brinkley
From: Dale Smith, CPA
Re: Student Fees
Date: June 7, 2011

Ms. Brinkley,

It is the opinion of our firm that any fees charged to students by a school (or the district) for a sport, club, field trip, parking, book fees/fines, etc., should be collected by school personnel and deposited in the school's bank account in accordance with prescribed controls, procedures and State law. We do not recommend that the Board allow these fees to be collected by parent or booster club organizations since these organizations are not legally part of the school district and the school district therefore cannot ensure that the funds are being properly accounted for.

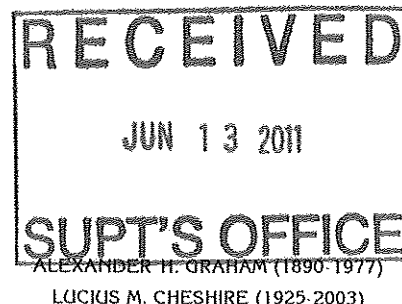
Please call me at 910-997-1418 if you have further questions or if I can be of more help with this issue.

CHESHIRE & PARKER

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D. MICHAEL PARKER
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MEMORANDUM:

DATE: June 13, 2011

TO: G. Patrick Rhodes

FROM: D. Michael Parker, Board attorney 

RE: Fees set by School Board

The question arose at a recent Board meeting regarding the various student fees that are set by the School Board for participation in certain programs such as band. The Board has the duty and authority to set these fees under NCGS 115C-47(6) which states in part "no fees, charges or costs shall be collected from students...without the approval of the board of education as recorded in the minutes of the board." These fees must either be paid to the finance officer and appropriated under the budget resolution as part of the local current expense fund pursuant to the uniform budget format as outlined in NCGS 115C-426 or paid into the special school funds authorized under NCGS 115C-448(a). Both of these funds are subject to audit under NCGS 115C-447(a). I find no authority in the statutes or otherwise for these funds to be paid to any booster organization or to any body or agency except the school finance officer or the special school fund at the school attended by the student for whom these fees are paid. I would recommend that they be collected by the school bookkeeper and accounted for as special school funds.

OCB\MEM. 305