

Student Fees Hearing

Monday, July 12, 2021 5:00 PM

Gothenburg Public Schools Discovery Center
(Greenhouse Classroom)
1322 Avenue I
Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138

Agenda

1. Open Hearing
2. Review of Student Fees Policy
3. Review the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fees policy of District #20 for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. Public Comment
5. Close Hearing

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The Board of Education adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Nebraska Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution. The District also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" shall mean students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" shall mean student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the District; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the District.
3. "Postsecondary education costs" shall mean tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the District's grooming and attire guidelines. They are also responsible for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that will detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The District will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The District will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. *Personal consumable items may be suggested but will not be required.* Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that was lost by the student.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

Students in some courses produce a project that becomes their property at the end of the course. In those circumstances, students must either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of any materials required for the course project.

5. Extracurricular Activities.

The District may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the District's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The District may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of District-owned equipment or attire. The coach or sponsor will provide students with written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

6. Postsecondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the District's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such postsecondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the District shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

7. Transportation Costs.

The District will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the District to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

8. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The District will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

9. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-kindergarten Services.

The District will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services offered by the District pursuant to statute.

10. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The District will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school, and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

11. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The District will charge for items that students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The District will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, a vending machine, a booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) admission fees and transportation charges for student spectators attending extracurricular activities, (3) materials for course projects, and (4) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The District is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Student Fee Fund.

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate School District fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Legal Reference:

Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.

Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-241, 79-605, 79-611 Transportation

79-2,104 Student files or records

79-715 Eye-protective devices

79-737 Liability of students for damages to school books

79-1,104 Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services.

79-1106 to 79-1108.03 Accelerated or differential curriculum

CERTIFICATION

On the 12th day of July, 2021, the Board of Education of Gothenburg Public Schools held a public hearing on the student fee policy. The hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the 2020-21 school year. This student fee policy was then adopted by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting conducted in compliance with the Public Meetings Law.

Superintendent

Policy Adopted: July 8, 2002

Policy Amended: July 14, 2003

Renumbered: December 10, 2007

Policy Reaffirmed: August 10th, 2020

GOTHENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Gothenburg, Nebraska

Student Fees
2020-2021

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3	Student Activity	Chromebook	Ind. Tech	FCS	FFA	Driver Ed.	DDA Int.	Online
4	Tickets	Repairs						Set up
5								Credit
6								
7	\$ 10,766.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 855.00	\$ 4,580.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 10.40	\$ 20.00
8								
9	Total Receipts	\$ 17,561.40						