

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: Pay to Ride

Date: October 13, 2020

Dept: Business Office

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

Reduction of Pay to Ride Fees

I recommend approval of the Pay to Ride bus fee to be set at \$130 for the 2020-2021 school year as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
A Bergen:	Y / N T Keenan: Y / N
J D'Angelo:	Y / N M J Scofield: Y / N
J Pond-Pfeffer:	Y / N D Spencer: Y / N
E Stokes:	Y / N Action: _____



Franklin Public Schools
Business Office
355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4825

To: Franklin School Committee
From: Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator
Date: October 7, 2020
Re: Reduction in Pay-to-Ride Bus Fee for 2020-2021 School Year

Recently the Budget Subcommittee met to discuss the FY21 budget and in the course of the discussion, Pay-To-Ride fees were considered. As you know, the School Committee set the FY21 rate at \$325, reduced from \$360 to account for the partial year of busing in FY20. This was done back in the spring based on the best information that we had at that time.

At this time, as you know, students are attending school in-person in a hybrid model, and for most, this would be 2 days per week or 40% of the time. As a result of this hybrid scheduling, I would recommend that the school committee consider a 60% reduction in the Pay-To-Ride fee from \$325 to \$130 for this 2020-2021 school year.

We are continuing to negotiate with our vendor to amend the contract for the following reasons:

- The school year for students was shortened by DESE to 170 days thereby reducing the need for busing by 10 days.
- Most students are not attending school in person on Wednesdays further reducing the need for busing by 35 days.
- We are currently utilizing 18 buses in the course of routing K-8 and Charter school students. This may increase as we continue to route FHS students.
- Contract billing is monthly based on the number of days our vendor is actually transporting students.

- Our vendor continues to incur fixed costs in the operation of the company, and additional costs for cleaning and PPE have been incurred as well.
- We will need to add language in the event that the District has a need for full remote instruction for an extended period of time

Of course, this has a budgetary impact, particularly relative to revenue coming into the Pay-to-Ride revolving account. Currently, we have approximately 1,600 students registered to ride buses. We expect to collect fees from about 1,000. At a rate of \$130, collections would approach \$130,000. This would be a significant decrease from the approximate \$550,000 that is typically generated. While this will certainly be an impact on the FY22 budget, I believe it is the right choice to make for families, and, as such, I would recommend that the Pay-to-Ride bus fee be set at \$130 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Finally, when we opened transportation registration, there were families that decided to make full payment upon registration. If a reduced rate were approved, I would refund these families \$195 of the \$325 already paid.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you.