



Community Use of Schools – Permit Fee Increase

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 1 June, 2023

Report No.: 06-23-4538

Strategic Directions

- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that permit fees, excluding permits for outdoor fields, be adjusted by 6.3% effective September 1, 2023, where permit fees for outdoor fields are recommended to be effective January 1, 2024 be approved.

Context

On February 8, 2012, the Board approved the recommendation that permit fees be adjusted on September 1 each year, subject to the approval of the Board. This recommendation is now included in the Community Use of Board Facilities (Permits) – Policy P011.

A permit fee increases to adjust for the cost of living is now due for the 2023-2024 school year. According to the most recent information from Statistics Canada, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items for the province of Ontario from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022, was +6.3%. It is therefore recommended that permit fees should be increased by 6.3% for permits beginning September 1, 2023, except for outdoor fields for which the new fees will be effective January 1, 2024. The proposed new fee schedule is attached as Appendix A.

By way of comparison, the increased 2023 – 2024 permit fee for a double-gym, on a Saturday, under Category A1 (highest subsidy) is \$31.96/hr. In 2022 – 2023, the fee for the same space, under Category A1 was \$30.07/hr.

The TDSB has already taken some measures to address concerns about permit costs and supporting community programs. For example, despite the Ministry of Education withdrawing funding for the \$2.5 million Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) in 2019, the TDSB made a commitment to continue to provide no-cost permits to not-for-profit community groups at designated locations, provided that there are no additional costs to the TDSB. This is in recognition of the valuable services provided to our communities by community programs. Free permits are available at 45 TDSB schools, all located in the City's Priority Neighbourhoods. These 45 sites are designated as Local Neighbourhood Support Program (LNSP) sites. The TDSB provides no-cost school permits to eligible community groups for eligible free or low-cost programs.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Pending Board approval of the recommendations of this report, the new fee schedule will be communicated immediately to the Toronto District School Board Facility Permit holders and applicants and the general public.

The new fees will be implemented effective September 1, 2023, except the new fees for outdoor fields, which will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Resource Implications

The Permit Unit uses eBase to update fees and there will be no resource implications. The updates are done instantly online however this has to be completed by May to allow for community permit submissions in June.

Communications Considerations

All Permit fees updates are shared/ communicated to all TDSB Permit Holders electronically by the Permit Unit. This occurs when the Permit Unit sends the eBase communication regarding permit request submissions for the 2023-2024 school year. This will happen in May or as soon as the go ahead is received. The New Rates will be reflected in their 2023-2024 submissions.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Policy P011 - Community Use of Board Facilities (Permits)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Permit Fees 2023-24
- Appendix B: Fee Rates 2019-2024

From

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