

SCA Society Update

SCE / SCS School Councils

January 2022



General Updates

- CRA Update
 - Court date was held on Oct 19th
 - Judge reserved their decision, still waiting for the ruling
- Flourishing Schools
 - We have joined the Flourishing School Culture tool developed by ACSI
 - Surveys to go out in February, take about 5-10 min to complete
 - Parents, alumni, staff, students
 - Totally anonymous, please share your heart
- Signing of agreement with SPAC
 - Approved by both boards in October
 - Had our board orientation last week and completed the signing

Parent Survey

Link in your email!

The shortfall arises in part from the thirty-six (5.1% of) families currently refusing to pay their full fees. (Financial assistance is available from Sherwood Park Alliance Church for parents in financial need; none has been requested to date by these parents.) To help us manage the repercussions of these parents refusing to pay their fees, please indicate your support for the options below. *

I support this option. I do not support this option.

Increase fees to all other parents to cover the unpaid fees (approx. \$60 per student for 2022/23).

Cut programming from the SCA budget to balance the budget.

Use a collections agency to resolve accounts in arrears (will impact a person's credit rating).

Provide an opportunity for other parents to make a donation to offset the unpaid fees.

My preferred option is: *

- Increase fees to all other parents to cover the unpaid fees (approx. \$60 per student for 2022/23).
- Cut programming from the SCA budget to balance the budget.
- Use a collections agency to resolve accounts in arrears (will impact a person's credit rating).
- Provide an opportunity for other parents to make a donation to offset the unpaid fees.
- Other: _____

Background (Cole's Notes)

- Concerns over transparency and fees raised by parents the last few years
 - We're a third party owned facility, majority of fees going to building costs.
 - Don't receive full funding for building, parent fees to cover the balance (same for Edmonton Christian, Millwoods Christian, anyone who owns their building)
 - Recording of details was presented in October
- Last year collected parent concerns, developed agreement with SPAC
 - Presented in Sept, approved in October
 - Most of those parents continue to refuse
 - Everyone has been reached out, majority don't engage, others aren't satisfied with what's been done
- Between refusers and drop in provincial funding we're facing shortfall
- The Society (and EIPS) can't remove people for not paying (Education Act)

22/23 Society Fee Setting Proposal

- Current refusal of fees projected to be **\$92K**
- Provincial funding was cut by **\$168K**
- Projected shortfall this year is **\$82K (5% of budget)**
 - Recording of details was presented in October
- Pending feedback from councils and survey, the Society Board is recommending a fee **increase of \$60 per student**
 - This is approximately **4% of the annual budget** for a total of **\$70K**.
 - First increase in many years.
- In parallel working on a policy to handle non-paying parents in effort to reduce this cost

Arrears Policy

- Collected information from
 - Elk Island Public Schools
 - Alberta Education
 - Vanguard Collections
 - Alternative programs (Edmonton Christian, Millwoods Christian, Calgary Christian, Trinity Christian)
 - Parent survey sent out to collect feedback
- Drafting policy to implement 22/23 school year
 - Seek feedback from EIPS, SPAC, Parents

School Council Consultation

- So far the survey has over 300 responses
 - We have read every single response and comment
- Bulk of families have told us that they support the Society using a collections agency – do you agree?
- Bulk of families have told us that are unhappy that fees will increase to cover parents that are choosing not to pay – do you agree?
 - Again: financial assistance is already available for those that are unable to pay fees

Feedback or questions?

scasociety@spac.ca

www.scasociety.ca