



A Community of Learners

Information and Action Item: Adventures 2016 Program and Fee Approval

TO: School Board
Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

FROM: Meghan Warner, Site Director
Gregory Kurr, CFO

January 26, 2016

Overview & Background

The District has hosted a successful summer school program, Adventures in Learning, for over seventy-five years. Last summer, Meghan Warner, a teacher at The Skokie School, continued the tradition. Meghan has agreed to continue to serve as Site Director for the 2016 Adventures in Learning Program.

Adventures in Learning has a long standing tradition of providing engaging experiences designed by certified teachers and staff. Students may find themselves building a life-size castle, complete with armory, in a class like King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table; testing their survival skills and fire-building abilities in Wilderness Survival class; bonding with, and later adopting, a live animal in Animal Care. These are just a few of the experiences that make Adventures special. This year we are excited to include new offerings such as Spa-licious, Scratch Programming and Girls on the Run! We are proud to offer these classes as part of our commitment to enrich the lives of our community of learners.

The Adventures program served 742 students last summer with 95 students enrolled in the primary program (grades pre-k to 1), 647 students in the general program (grades 2 to 8), and 79 students enrolled as part of an Extended School Year (ESY) experience for special education students. There were 113 class offerings and field trip enrichment opportunities for students over the duration of the 5 week program.

Due to enhanced communication, participation in last year's program increased by approximately 100 students. Similar student experiences and participation levels are planned for the Adventures program during the summer of 2016. The program will run from June 15, 2016 to July 19, 2016.

Although the program is intended to be revenue neutral, last summer even though the fees charged for the program were maintained at prior levels, similar to the prior year, revenue exceeded expenditures by approximately \$9,000. This year the recommendation is to maintain fees at the prior year amount; \$555 for residents and \$605 for non-residents. In addition, however, the stipend rates for administrators, faculty and support staff are proposed to increase by 3% or a total cost of approximately \$10,000, a level of increase consistent with the District's financial targets. This is in recognition of the fact that an increase stipend rates has not been provided since 2010. In consideration of these factors, it is anticipated that the 2016 Adventures program will operate at an approximate breakeven.

The plan is to open registration in March for the 2016 Adventures summer school program. Families will be able to continue to register for Adventures online, which provides convenience for parents and efficiency for scheduling classes. The online registration process is undergoing improvements to ensure the server can support the high demand at peak times. Based on suggestion by parents, we are also offering a one-week pre-registration access to Winnetka residents only.

Scholarships are available to families with financial need.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends the continuation of the Adventures program during the summer of 2016 with an increase in stipend rates of 3% and fees of \$555 for residents and \$605 for non-residents.