

# MOKENA

SCHOOL DISTRICT #159

To: Board of Education  
From: Dr. Mark Cohen  
Re: Fees for Music Programs  
Date: June 6, 2024

I am recommending that the Board charge the following fees for music programs for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Band, Orchestra, Spring Musical = \$50
- Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Summer Band, Spring Musical Crew = \$25
- Instrument Rental Fee (large string, woodwind, & brass instruments, percussion) = \$75

Rationale for Band, Orchestra, & Spring Musical fees:

Band and Orchestra meet daily during the school year. The time students spend in these programs rivals that of our athletic programs and the teachers of these programs receive larger stipends as a result. Occasionally the music programs incur large expenses for equipment such as the purchase of music stands this year (\$8,688.34). The larger fee of \$50 is appropriate given the time spent in rehearsals and the overhead costs of the programs.

The spring musical is also a very expensive program to produce. This year with a simplified set (due to time constraints) the production costs exceeded \$11,000. A \$50 fee for the cast of the Musical is appropriate given the rehearsal and performance schedule along with the costs to the District for costumes, lighting, auditorium rental, rights to the production, and more.

Here are the current MTA Contract stipends for the music positions-

MUSIC		0-3 Years		4-7 Years		8 + Years
Symphonic Band	1	\$7,625		\$8,033		\$8,434
Concert Band	1	\$6,075		\$6,405		\$6,725
Cadet Band	1	\$5,650		\$5,933		\$6,230



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Beginning Band	1	\$5,650		\$5,933		\$6,230
Meteor Choir	1	\$3,500		\$3,675		\$3,859
Accompanist	1	\$1,750		\$1,838		\$1,929

## Rationale for Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Summer Band, Spring Musical Crew fees:

Unlike the programs described above, these groups meet far less frequently. The hours spent in these activities are more like our clubs that meet once or twice a week over the course of a year. These programs do not incur significant costs to the District like the programs above. The choir stipend is reflective of the lesser time spent in practices and the cost for equipment is minimal. Stipends for musical crew, percussion ensemble, and jazz band are under \$1,000 and are based on the MTA club's tiered schedule (currently being negotiated). The Summer band stipend is also being negotiated and at present there is no firm number I can provide; the individual was previously paid by the music boosters.

## Rationale for the Instrument Rental Fee:

Year to date the District has spent \$2,756.12 on instrument repairs. There are costs from this school year that will likely carry over to FY25; this is the result of instruments sent out for summer repairs and maintenance. I do not have these costs as of the writing of this memo. We will not get the bill to pay before the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the District purchased \$1,628.65 in drums this year. Victoria Clifford has informed me that she plans on purchasing approximately \$580 in new sticks and mallets for the percussion instruments soon; individual sets cost anywhere from \$19 to \$39 a set depending on the type of stick or mallet. The District must also acquire more string instruments soon to provide to our growing orchestra program students, although we hope the Boosters can help defray some of these costs.

The instrument rental fees belong exclusively to those students who use school-provided equipment. Most of these instruments are large and expensive; baritone saxophones, tubas, percussion, etc. Instrumental music players who provide their own instruments (trumpet, flute, etc.) pay to purchase or rent their instruments from vendors. It is equitable that a fee be charged by the District to offset the costs of providing a school-owned instrument. This is similar to the fee the District charges fees for our instructional program to offset equipment costs (ex.- chromebooks). One item of note- 4th grade percussionists will not be charged the \$75 fee; they do not use the school drums, xylophones, and such until they are in 5th grade cadet band.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. Thank you.