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Dear Parents of BTPS Students,

In June of 2017, the Government of Alberta passed *Bill 1 – An Act to Reduce School Fees*. Since that time, the Board of Trustees of BTPS has been working hard to implement the expectations of this new legislation. A majority of the work involved BTPS Administrative Procedure 201.5AP. Two years prior to the government’s decision, the Board of Trustees undertook a review of their fee policy and in particular 201.5AP Student Fees. Concerns over the differences in some of the fees being charged in our schools for items were noticed and the Board wanted more consistency across BTPS. You may recall that we implemented a new fee model that saw the removal of a variety of different fees and the implementation of a single Mandatory School Fee. We defined this fee to cover the costs of “basic” resources that a student would require to meet the learner outcomes of the program of studies. The charges to parents for the mandatory school fee was set at \$85.00 (K-6), \$125.00 (7-9) and \$150.00 (10-12). Other charges or reimbursable deposits for items outside of that mandatory school fee were a school level decision. One of the requirements of *Bill 1 – An Act to Reduce School Fees*, was to remove what we previously identified as the BTPS Mandatory School Fees. As a result, parents in BTPS will no longer be charged the \$85.00 (K-6), \$125.00 (7-9) and \$150.00 (10-12) amounts. **This is good news for parents!** It was also good news for school jurisdictions as we were provided funds in the 2017-2018 budget allocation to help offset these costs.

The legislation did not eliminate all fees for students. When parents choose to have their children participate in activities or require a service is beyond the basic, there may be costs associated. As one example, BTPS charges some fees for transportation services that are not funded by Alberta Education. We do not receive funding to transport children who live within a 2.4 km radius from their designated school. Transportation funding is also only provided to a pick up point where the county road or highway meets the entry to the property. If a service is not funded by Alberta Education, there is a charge. These types of transportation fees have not been eliminated in the legislation. As well, when the items are the personal property of a

student (musical instruments, calculators, running shoes, yearbook, etc.) or if the activity is optional in terms of student participation (ski trip, hockey academy ice, field trips, etc.) a charge may occur. Finally, a reimbursable deposit, where costs are incurred by BTPS, can be collected to secure student commitment to an activity and returned upon completion.

In response to the areas where charges or deposits can be charged, *Bill 1 – An Act to Reduce School Fees* requires school jurisdictions and schools to establish fee schedules and inform parents of these fee schedules at the beginning of the school year. School level fee schedules cannot exceed the fee amounts identified in the BTPS Fee Schedule. They have been encouraged to use the fees and amounts that they had in place for the 2016-2017 school year. If there are charges, parents should not see any new school fees and only very minimal increases to existing fees that can be justified. As always, when there are extenuating circumstances, the principal, in consultation with the BTPS Secretary Treasurer, can waive an optional charge or deposit. Appeals of a principal's decision in this regard can be filed under BTPS Administrative Procedure [202.3AP- Appeals Concerning Student Matters](#).

BTPS' School Fee information can be found on our BTPS website www.btps.ca under [201.5AP Student Fees](#). Here you will find the procedure, a fee waiver form and the 2017-2018 BTPS Fee Schedule. Your child's school fee information can be found under the "Parent" tab on the school website. The 2017-2018 School Fee Schedule will be found there and it will identify all charges for optional activities and reimbursable deposits.

As a part of the legislation, we must provide parents with this information and an acknowledgement that you have been provided this information. In an effort to reduce the amount of paperwork that is coming to parents, we will be adding a statement to the Registration Form for those who are new to BTPS and to the Student Demographic Update that is sent home at the beginning of the year for those who already attend. The statement on these document refers to the fee information shared in this letter and a confirmation that you have received it. We appreciate your commitment to helping us to communicate this information.

If you have any questions about the BTPS Administrative Procedures, the waiver process or the 2017-2018 BTPS Fee Schedule, please feel free to email them to superintendent@btps.ca. If you have any question about your child's 2017-2018 School Fee Schedule, please feel free to contact the Principal of your child's school.

Sincerely,



Bob Allen
BTPS Superintendent of Schools