

# NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100 Walnut Street  
Newtonville, MA 02460  
617-559-9025

---

**TO:** School Committee  
David Fleishman, Superintendent

**FROM:** Cynthia Bergan, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education & Special Programs  
Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 10, 2013

**RE:** **Fee Review and Recommendations**

---

## **I. Introduction**

The Newton Public Schools, consistent with peer districts, have had student fees in place for many years. The revenue generated from fees has been used to offset costs associated with areas such as busing, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities. Two years ago, facing a budget gap of four million dollars, the School Committee increased a number of fees and instituted a new student activity fee at the high school and middle school levels. Appendix A compares 2012-13 fees for the Newton Public Schools with thirteen other eastern Massachusetts public school districts.

Over the past year, the district has received a number of requests to examine the impact of the new and increased fees on student participation in school programs and the financial impact on families. The Newton Public Schools have worked hard to ensure that all students are able to participate in student activities, regardless of their ability to pay. Nonetheless, it is essential to examine if there has been any impact on students and families as a result of the additional fees and fee increases. The following review addresses many of the questions received about student participation trends, financial impact on families, waivers granted, and the effectiveness of the family caps and supercap in reducing costs to families. In addition to the fee data system and revenue collections reports, this review includes detailed information gained from staff and student surveys. Finally, the review provides several recommendations for changes to the fee policy for School Committee review.

## **II. Data and Feedback**

This section of the review provides information in primarily table format on student participation in fee related activities and programs, family fee payments, waivers for financial hardship for the various fees, and the impact of family caps and the supercap, with comparisons where possible to prior years. Family caps refer to the total number of one particular type of fee which any given family pays in one school year. For example, each family pays a maximum of two bus fees, so the family cap is \$310 times 2, or \$620. In high school athletics, each family pays a maximum of three athletics fees – the family cap is thus \$300 times 3, or \$900. Currently set at \$1,800, the supercap is an annual ceiling on the total dollar amount of fees any one family must pay. All fees contribute toward the supercap except for high school parking and the elementary school early morning program.

Table 1 shows the number of fees by type in the current year showing the percentage of each fee that is waived. The total number of student fees by type is 8,924. Seventy-five percent of all fees have been paid in full this school year, 9% qualify for a financial waiver, 4% are transportation distance waivers, 2% are family cap waivers, and the remaining 10% have not been paid in full and are still being collected as of this report.

**Table 1: Total Fee Participation - 2012-2013 School Year**

Fee Description	TOTAL FEE PARTICIPATION										
	Paid in Full		Waived - Family Cap		Waived - Distance		Waived - Financial/ Other		Not Paid in Full		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Transportation	1,537	64%	65	3%	376	16%	284	12%	153	6%	<b>2,415</b>
High School Athletics	1,926	82%	98	4%	0	0%	255	11%	59	3%	<b>2,338</b>
Middle School Athletics	1,143	92%	28	2%	0	0%	58	5%	13	1%	<b>1,242</b>
High School Student Activities	226	33%	0	0%	0	0%	30	4%	421	62%	<b>677</b>
High School Drama	120	57%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%	86	41%	<b>211</b>
Middle School Student Activities	443	70%	0	0%	0	0%	32	5%	156	25%	<b>631</b>
Grade 4/5 Instrumental Music	897	93%	0	0%	0	0%	68	7%	0	0%	<b>965</b>
All-City Music	127	88%	0	0%	0	0%	17	12%	0	0%	<b>144</b>
Early Morning Program	131	81%	0	0%	0	0%	31	19%	0	0%	<b>162</b>
Newton South Parking	139	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<b>139</b>
<b>Total Fee Payments</b>	<b>6,689</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8,924</b>

**NOTES:**

- 1.) The transportation fee includes 136 private school students.
- 2.) For High School Athletics, Middle School Athletics and High School Drama, the figures include each student for each sport. A student may participate in up to three sports or productions per school year. For example, there are 1,599 high school students participating in 2,338 individual sports in 2012-13. The average number of sports played by each student is 1.5. For middle school athletics, the average is 1.4. The high school drama average is 1.3.

Table 2 shows the numbers of fees and the collections from those fees with three years of data as well as expected collections for 2013-14. From FY11 to FY13, total fees and fee collections have increased by \$666,000, or 38%. Note 70% of the fees shown in the chart are subject to the supercap, while 30% are not including Use of School Buildings, the Early Morning Program, and Newton South parking.

**Table 2: Fee Collections (\$) by Fiscal Year**

Fees	FY11		FY12		FY13		Change from FY11 to FY13	FY14 Budget	FY14 vs FY13
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$			
<b>Fees Subject to the Supercap:</b>									
High School Athletics	2,438	\$483,452	2,342	\$655,037	2,338	\$655,685	\$172,233	\$655,685	\$0
Middle School Athletics	1,263	\$136,252	1,232	\$175,984	1,242	\$178,620	\$42,368	\$178,483	(\$137)
Bus Transportation	1,879	\$364,512	2,200	\$479,660	2,415	\$500,737	\$136,225	\$491,195	(\$9,542)
Grade 4/5 Instrumental Music	1,037	\$106,059	1,043	\$173,040	965	\$187,912	\$81,853	\$190,913	\$3,001
High School Student Activity			613	\$35,245	677	\$33,335	\$33,335	\$50,000	\$16,665
Middle School Student Activity			743	\$41,881	631	\$33,746	\$33,746	\$42,957	\$9,211
All City Music Ensembles			139	\$20,650	144	\$12,250	\$12,250	\$20,800	\$8,550
High School Drama			102	\$10,160	211	\$19,725	\$19,725	\$23,450	\$3,725
<b>Total Fees Subject to the Supercap</b>	<b>6,617</b>	<b>\$1,090,275</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>\$1,591,657</b>	<b>8,623</b>	<b>\$1,622,010</b>	<b>\$531,735</b>	<b>\$1,653,483</b>	<b>\$31,473</b>
<b>Fees Not Subject to the Supercap:</b>									
Use of School Buildings	n/a	\$520,201	n/a	\$552,789	n/a	\$602,637	\$82,436	\$605,242	\$2,605
Early Morning Program	161	\$84,548	151	\$96,014	162	\$137,249	\$52,701	\$136,995	(\$254)
Newton South Parking	127	\$50,900	131	\$47,080	139	\$50,140	(\$760)	\$41,913	(\$8,227)
<b>Total Fees Not Subject to the Supercap</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>\$655,649</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>\$695,883</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>\$790,026</b>	<b>\$134,377</b>	<b>\$784,150</b>	<b>(\$5,876)</b>
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>6,905</b>	<b>\$1,745,924</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>\$2,287,540</b>	<b>8,924</b>	<b>\$2,412,036</b>	<b>\$666,112</b>	<b>\$2,437,633</b>	<b>\$25,597</b>

Table 3 shows a distribution of the total fee obligation by family in \$300 increments. This table illustrates that the supercap of \$1,800 has only been reached by six families. The largest group of family payments is between \$300 and \$599, representing 33% of families subject to the fees. Of the total 8,381 families with children in the Newton Public Schools, 51% (4,303) are subject to the fees, 9% are approved for waivers and pay \$0, and 65% pay \$599 or less. Another 15% pay between \$600 and \$899, and 7% pay between \$900 and \$1,199. The remaining 136 families pay \$1,200 and above.

Total Family Fee Obligation Amount	Number of Families	% of Total Families Subject to a Fee Payment	% of All Families in NPS	Notes
\$0 (Waiver Approved)	399	9%	5%	These families were approved for waivers.
\$1-299	1,398	32%	17%	
\$300-599	1,409	33%	17%	
\$600-899	641	15%	8%	
\$900-1199	320	7%	4%	
\$1200-1499	95	2%	1%	
\$1500-1799	35	1%	0.4%	
\$1,800	6	0.1%	0.1%	These families reached the super cap.
<b>TOTAL FAMILIES SUBJECT TO FEE PAYMENT (Athletics, Bus, Music, Student Activities)</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51%</b>	
<b>ALL FAMILIES IN NPS</b>	<b>8,381</b>		<b>100%</b>	All families in Newton Public Schools.

\*This table does not include the Early Morning Program or High School Parking fees.

Table 4 shows the impact of the family caps for busing and athletics, another measure which limits the financial impact on families. Thus, no family pays more than \$900 per year or three sport seasons regardless of the number of participants. The table shows that 191 fee payments were saved due to family caps in 2012-13, resulting in a savings to families of \$46,010.

Fee Description	TOTAL FAMILY CAPS FOR FEE PAYMENTS					
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Transportation	27	\$7,020	61	\$18,910	65	\$20,150
High School Athletics	108	\$17,690	127	\$28,700	98	\$22,000
Middle School Athletics	25	\$2,160	26	\$3,540	28	\$3,860
<b>Total Family Caps</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>\$26,870</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>\$51,150</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>\$46,010</b>

**NOTES:**

- 1.) The transportation fee was \$260 in 2010-11 and \$310 in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and includes private school students. The elementary bus fee was free for all students living over one mile from school in 2010-11.
- 2.) The high school athletics fee was \$210 in 2010-11 and \$300 in 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- 3.) The middle school athletics fee was \$120 in 2010-11 and \$160 in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Table 5 shows the net cost and number of families affected by \$100 increment reductions to the supercap.

Total Super Cap Amount	Additional Number of Families Affected	Cumulative Number of Families Affected	Total Loss of Fee Revenue
\$1800 (Current Amount)	6	6	\$0
\$1,700	6	12	\$850
\$1,600	9	21	\$2,345
\$1,500	20	41	\$5,130
\$1,400	15	56	\$9,770
\$1,300	33	89	\$17,055
\$1,200	47	136	\$27,010
\$1,100	42	178	\$42,120
\$1,000	80	258	\$63,290

Table 6 shows the distribution of fee waivers for the various fees. The waiver process is confidential and flexible enough to meet various hardship circumstances, and in total there are 780 waivers granted for the various fees. This applies to the Early Morning Program even though that program is not included in the supercap.

Fee Description	TOTAL WAIVERS FOR FEE PAYMENTS					
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Transportation	176	\$45,110	221	\$68,355	284	\$87,575
High School Athletics	175	\$30,850	205	\$56,735	255	\$69,715
Middle School Athletics	55	\$6,600	56	\$8,370	58	\$8,690
High School Student Activities	n/a		15	\$1,875	30	\$3,750
High School Drama	n/a		3	\$450	5	\$750
Middle School Student Activities	n/a		27	\$2,220	32	\$2,360
Grade 4/5 Instrumental Music	43	\$8,600	78	\$15,600	68	\$13,600
All-City Music	n/a		15	\$3,000	17	\$3,400
Early Morning Program	27	\$52,272	31	\$54,864	31	\$61,992
<b>Total Fee Waivers</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>\$143,432</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>\$211,469</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>\$251,832</b>

Table 7 provides the detailed information on elementary school instrumental music fees and includes the current year as well as data from the previous five years. Participation information for 2012-13 shows that there are 965 students in elementary schools who receive instrumental music instruction, of which 7% receive financial waivers. The table provides student participation percentages for grade 4 and grade 5 instrumental music instruction. Participation in grade 4 music instruction has ranged from a low of 58% of all students in 2010-11 to a high of 67% in 2009-10. The raising of the grade 4 music fee to \$200 was followed by a drop in participation of nine percentage points; however, the following year there was an increase in participation of 7% percent. The data shows there is a reduction in music

participation from grade 4 to grade 5 regardless of whether or not a fee is charged; 67% of grade 4 students participated in music in 2009-10 versus 51% of those same students in grade 5 one year later - before the grade 5 fee was instituted. The data varies from year to year due to the preferences of different cohorts of students.

**Table 7: Instrumental Music - Grade 4 and Grade 5 Participation History**

Grade	School Year	Fee	Total NPS Enrollment	Total Music Lesson Enrollment	% of NPS Enrollment Taking Music	Total Financial Waivers	% of Music Students with a Financial Waiver
Grade 4	2007-08	No Fee	897	558	62%	N/A	N/A
Grade 4	2008-09	\$150	908	602	66%	50	8%
Grade 4	2009-10	\$150	967	652	67%	51	8%
Grade 4	2010-11	\$200	932	543	58%	43	8%
Grade 4	2011-12	\$200	1,017	664	65%	61	9%
Grade 4	2012-13	\$200	938	554	59%	50	9%
Grade 5	2010-11	No Fee	960	494	51%	N/A	N/A
Grade 5	2011-12	\$200	937	379	40%	17	4%
Grade 5	2012-13	\$200	1,021	411	40%	18	4%
Total Grade 4 & 5	2010-11	\$200/NA	1,892	1,037	55%	43	4%
Total Grade 4 & 5	2011-12	\$200	1,954	1,043	53%	78	7%
Total Grade 4 & 5	2012-13	\$200	1,959	965	49%	68	7%

**Regular Transportation**

Table 8 provides a complete history of average daily ridership and bus pass information for regular transportation.

**Table 8: Transportation Ridership and Bus Passes**

School Year	Average Daily Ridership	TOTAL BUS PASSES								Total Bus Passes
		Paid in Full		Waived - Family Cap		Waived - Distance		Waived - Financial/ Other		
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2003-04	1,715	2,056	73%	62	2%	405	14%	277	10%	2,800
2004-05	1,890	1,894	74%	70	3%	356	14%	232	9%	2,552
2005-06	1,760	1,535	74%	41	2%	306	15%	181	9%	2,063
2006-07	1,816	1,425	72%	32	2%	309	16%	225	11%	1,991
2007-08	1,837	1,395	70%	31	2%	365	18%	213	11%	2,004
2008-09	1,806	1,449	76%	22	1%	306	16%	142	7%	1,919
2009-10	1,962	1,358	74%	40	2%	287	16%	153	8%	1,838
2010-11	1,976	1,385	74%	27	1%	291	15%	176	9%	1,879
2011-12	2,132	1,630	74%	61	3%	288	13%	221	10%	2,200
2012-13	2,117	1,690	70%	65	3%	376	16%	284	12%	2,415

**NOTES:**

- 1.) The transportation ridership and bus pass information includes private school students.
- 2.) The elementary bus fee was free for all students living over 1 mile from school from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

### High School Athletics

Table 9 provides data on the number of high school athletes for three school years including the number of athletes as a percentage of total high school enrollment as well as the percentage of students who received a financial waiver and those who have not paid in full. Although the number of athletes from this school year to last has remained consistent at 2,340 athletes on average, there was a reduction of 96 athletes, or 4%, when the fees were raised in 2011-12. The percent of athletes who receive financial waivers is 10%, on average, and the percent of those who do not pay in full is 2.5% based on the most recent two school years.

**Table 9: High School Athletics Participation History**

School Year	Fee	Total # Athletes	# Athletes as a % of HS Enrollment	# Paid in Full	% Paid in Full	# Financial Waiver	% Financial Waiver	# Not Paid in Full	% Not Paid in Full
2012-13	\$300 per sport; \$400 hockey/football; family cap	2,338	64%	1,926	82%	258	11%	59	3%
	<i>Change from 2011-12</i>	(4)		(43)	-2%	53	2%	18	1%
2011-12	\$300 per sport; \$400 hockey/football; family cap	2,342	66%	1,969	84%	205	9%	41	2%
	<i>Change from 2010-2011</i>	(96)		(97)	-1%	30	2%	(48)	-2%
2010-11	\$210 per sport; family cap \$630	2,438	68%	2,066	85%	175	7%	89	4%

Table 10 provides the detailed information on the high school student activity fees as well as the drama fees. The data shows that there are about 676 students in various clubs and activities and another 166 students in drama productions. For drama, each student may pay the fee for up to three productions. The student activity fee has been the most challenging to implement. More telling than the counts of students is the feedback which has been received during the past year on the impact of the fees on students' abilities to explore and access programs as freely as had been the case for many years in both high schools and to affect the options for students and faculty in allowing for the full range of student choices.

**Table 10: High School Student Activities and Drama**

Fee Description	Total Students	TOTAL FEE PARTICIPATION AND PAYMENTS			
		Paid in Full	Waived - Financial/ Other	Not Paid in Full	Total Participation
<b>2011-12</b>					
High School Student Activities	613	274	15	324	613
High School Drama	90	61	3	38	102
<b>Total 2011-12</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>715</b>
<b>2012-13</b>					
High School Student Activities	677	226	30	421	677
High School Drama	166	120	5	86	211
<b>Total 2012-13</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>888</b>
<b>Change from 2011-12 to 2012-13</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>173</b>

### III. Survey of Faculty Advisors and Student Input

The district asked the club advisors at each high school to survey current and recent past club advisors with six questions as shown in Table 11. The total number of clubs offered in 2012-2013 does not appear to be significantly different from 2011-2012. Furthermore, at least ten past advisors reported that they were not currently running a club because of objections to the fee. In addition, 50% of respondents either agreed strongly or agreed with the statement, “I have seen a reduction in the number of students participating in clubs this year.” When asked about students, 56% of the advisors reported that, “students have told me that they are not participating in some activities due to the fees.”

**Table 11: Survey of High School Club Advisors**

Question #1: % of respondents from each high school (69 responses)	North 58%	South 42%			
Question #2: Did your club run in the 2011-12 school year? (69 responses)	Yes 81%	No 19%			
Question #3: Did your club run in the 2012-13 school year? (68 responses)	Yes 84%	No 16%			
Question #4: Did your club meet in the 2012-13 school year, and if not, why not? (41 responses)	Yes 68%	No, my students and I objected to the fee 25%	No, Lack of Student Interest 7%		
Question #5: I have seen a reduction in the number of clubs in 2012-13. (67 responses)	Strongly Agree 24%	Agree 26%	Disagree 12%	Strongly Disagree 4%	Don't know 34%
Question #6: Students have told me they are not participating in some activities due to the fee. (66 responses)	Yes 56%	No 44%			

Newton South’s student body also conducted a poll about student attitudes toward fees. Although this clearly drew responses from students who were opposed to the fee, 140 students took the time to express their frustrations. This is particularly valuable as the School Committee heard directly from the students at Newton North about their concerns surrounding the student activity fee at its November 26, 2012 meeting. Taking quotations from both the Newton South survey and the Newton North students, there is a compelling case to see the student activity fee as a possible barrier to student participation in student activities at the two high schools. The following is a sample of these quotations:

**From Newton North Students, School Committee Meeting, November 26, 2013**

- “Kids on the fence will not participate.”
- “(Fee) gets in the way of kids discovering their passions.”
- “Narrowing achievement gap between different income groups...”
- “(Creates a) financial & logistical barrier...”
- “Club fee is hurting a core value – impeding people from getting involved.”

**Student Responses in Student Survey, Newton South High School, January 2013**

- “Although budget cuts in the school are terrible, if fees are imposed, they might seriously affect student involvement in clubs and activities. One of the amazing things about South is our plethora of accessible extracurriculars, and if students or parents are concerned about money, and faced with this fee, even if it is easily avoided by applying, they may be discouraged from participation in the clubs that so help define us.”
- “The idea that you have to pay in order to host and participate in activities that result from your own ingenuity or enthusiasm for a particular field is insane, especially considering that the entire point of education is to further your own potential.”

- “It would discourage people from doing extracurriculars.”
- “The fee discourages me from partaking in clubs. It directly affects my considering of joining clubs, and currently I am not in any because of the fee.”
- “The two clubs that I am in raise money for charities, so I find it ridiculous that we have to pay to be in clubs that are basically volunteering or community services.
- “I don’t do a club because of this fee. It’s segregating the environment of South through clubs, which are the center of our social atmosphere.”

**Club Advisors from Newton North and Newton South as part of the advisor survey**

- “I was asked to be an advisor but resigned over the fee issues and problems.”
- “Students pay their own transportation costs, material rentals when needed, and site fees for trips. Both clubs that I advise use no school resources other than occasional classroom space that is open anyway. I donate my time, my energy, and materials to the clubs, with no compensation. It is completely unfair that students should pay a financial penalty for having interests outside of academics and that fees in no way support their activities or compensate me for my time.”
- “Studies have shown that participation in after school activities help students do better in school by getting involved. This blanket fee for clubs is very short sighted.”
- “The student connection is an important part of helping students to balance their high school experience with enjoyment through friendships and club membership. This is particularly important for the hundreds of students who are not connected by athletics, theatre or specialized academic groups. The club that was started was attended in the first weeks by 25-30 students, many of whom were freshmen looking for a place to belong. That place is our club, which is losing membership since the introduction of the club fee despite my attempts to offer a waiver for the club fee.”
- “It has been the philosophy that the clubs are student initiated and student run, and many of them meet for groups of kids with a common interest. It is not appropriate to charge a fee for these informal groups.”

**IV. Parking**

A student parking fee has been in place for several years at Newton South, with an increase and subsequent decrease in the fee as shown in Table 12. The table shows the numbers of spaces available for student parking at both schools as well as the percentage of spaces rented by year. North had 50 student spaces until 2004-05, while South has consistently had 156 spaces. As Newton North was in a construction period and as there were no student on-site parking areas/spaces in recent years, there have been no parking fees associated with Newton North. There is now availability to provide a small number of student spaces at North, and a recommendation follows that reflects this. The school district is working with the city to explore the possibility of developing neighborhood-based parking for Newton South students with more information in the recommendation section as well.

**Table 12: High School Parking**

High School Parking	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Parking Fee	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$400</b>	\$360	\$360
Number of Parking Spaces Available*	South=156; North=50	156	156	156	156	156	<b>156</b>	<b>156</b>	156	156
Number of Parking Spaces Rented	184	154	156	156	154	148	<b>127</b>	<b>127</b>	131	139
Percent of Parking Spaces Rented	89%	99%	100%	100%	98%	95%	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	84%	89%
Revenue	\$66,240	\$55,562	\$56,160	\$56,160	\$55,310	\$53,366	<b>\$50,918</b>	<b>\$50,900</b>	\$47,080	\$50,140

\*Newton North had 50 parking spaces available through 2003-04; of the total revenue of \$66,240, North contributed \$12,240 in 2003-04.



**V. Fee Administration**

In addition to accepting online payment for fees (including high school and middle school athletics as of Spring 2013) as well as checks, there has been considerable progress in linking student fee data to the student data system. While most athletic fees are collected at the school level, most other fees are collected at the Education Center Business and Finance Office. Fee collections are addressed online via the Newton Public Schools website through email reminders and through regular mailings. Fee collections will continue for those fees which have not yet been paid.

**VI. Recommendations**

After a full review of the data provided above and after discussion with Central Office administrators and with input from school administrators and staff as well, and with recognition of the School Committee Budget Guidelines and direction as well as resolutions passed by the Board of Aldermen, the following changes are proposed to the current fee policy. The total impact of these recommendations is \$102,200 in FY14:

1. Eliminate the high school student activity fee for FY14, School Year 2013-14 and beyond. This fee has presented a challenge and a change to student participation and the range of student activities and areas of exploration. The total expected collections in the FY14 budget is approximately \$50,000 of revenue.
2. Reduce the supercap to \$1,200 per family. The current supercap of \$1,800 is set too high to provide financial relief to families, and based on the data presented; a reduction to \$1,200 for the supercap would save at least \$27,000 in total for about 136 families. Please note, the family caps for transportation, high school athletics and middle school athletics will remain at \$620, \$900, and \$480, respectively. These caps save approximately \$46,000 annually for 191 families and should be maintained.
3. Reduce the high school on-site parking fee to \$180 per year from \$360 per year. Implement the on-site fee for approximately 20 parking spaces at the Newton North Lowell Avenue parking lot. The overall budget impact of these changes is a loss of approximately \$20,000 to the school budget.
4. Add a waiver to the All-City Music fee of \$200 for students who pay the Grade 4 instrumental music fee or the Grade 5 instrumental music fee. The budget impact of this change is a loss of approximately \$5,200 to the school budget.
5. Work with the City Planning Department and Traffic Council to study the Newton South offsite parking challenges and provide a solution similar to Newton North if warranted.

**APPENDIX A  
FEE COMPARISON CHART (2012-13)**

City/Town	High School Athletics	Middle School Athletics	Elementary School Music	Student Activities	Full Day Kindergarten/Preschool	Bus (Indiv./Cap)	Parking
<b>Arlington</b>	\$100-\$300 Football - \$500, Gymnastics \$600 Hockey \$700		\$435 for lessons			\$270 / \$370	
<b>Belmont</b>	\$450 1st sport, \$300 2nd \$150 3rd	covered under student activity fee		\$150 middle school \$100 high school \$275 HS Performing Groups	Kindergarten \$2,900	\$575	
<b>Brookline</b>	\$200 per sport	\$85/sport			Pre-K \$8,398 (21 hours)		
<b>Framingham</b>	\$225 per sport / \$900 cap					\$270 / \$540	\$75-\$125 per year
<b>Lexington</b>	\$325 1st sport, \$300 2nd sport , 3rd sport free	\$75-\$150 per sport		club by club basis		\$600/\$1,600	\$300 per year
<b>Natick</b>	\$150/\$450 cap	\$150/\$450 cap	\$175 per year	\$50 high school and middle school	Pre K - \$2,470-\$5,800	\$150/\$300	
<b>Needham</b>	\$285 / \$1,140 cap \$50 surcharge for swimming \$250 surcharge for Hockey/Skiing		\$100 per year		Pre K \$2,925 - \$3,900	\$390	\$30 per year
<b>Newton</b>	\$300/sport; \$900 family cap (\$400/Hockey / Football)	\$160/ \$480 cap	\$200/year Grades 4 and 5 instrumental music	\$60 middle school \$125 high school \$150 HS Drama	Pre-K \$4,503 - \$6,684	\$310/\$620	\$360 per year
<b>Watertown</b>	\$200 per year	\$100 per year		\$50 middle school \$25 high school	Pre K \$5,900 - \$7,000	\$300/\$475	
<b>Wayland</b>	\$250 per sport	\$100 per sport	\$150 per year		Kindergarten - \$4,000 per year Pre K 1/2 day \$4,204-\$6,768 full day \$8,872-\$13,915	\$180/\$500	\$220 per year
<b>Wellesley</b>	\$250 per sport	\$150 per sport	\$348 - 15 1/2 hour lessons	\$125 middle school \$150 high school	Pre K \$2,450-\$6,500	\$521 / \$1,142	\$150/\$250 per year
<b>Weston</b>			Private fee based music lessons (\$28/half hour)		Pre K \$7,400 (20 Hrs)		
<b>Weymouth</b>	\$200/sport (\$250 Football/ \$400 Hockey)		\$17 per 1/2 hour lesson		Kindergarten - \$350 per month	\$235/\$590	\$100 per year
<b>Winchester</b>	\$290/\$950 cap		\$350 per year		Kindergarten - \$1,030	\$630	