

September 4, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,



Livingstone Range
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 68

We, the Board of Trustees for the Livingstone Range School Division No. 68, would like to welcome you and your children back to school and to what we believe will be another great school year.

The intent of this communication is to provide you, the parent or guardian, with additional information around the topic of school fees and, more specifically, the Instructional Supplies and Materials Fee.

The issue of charging and collecting school fees is an issue that the Board of Trustees of Livingstone Range School Division has debated for many years. There has also been much discussion at the Provincial level to define basic education and then fund Alberta's public school system accordingly. As of yet there has not been a resolution to this matter.

The School Act of Alberta, in section 60, provides the authority to charge such fees. It reads, "A board may charge a parent of a student fees with respect to instructional supplies or materials."

Within Livingstone Range School Division, Administrative Procedure 505 provides the definition of instructional supplies and materials fees as "fees to offset the cost of instructional resources used or consumed by students."

It further identifies that these fees may only be used for the purpose for which they were collected and should relate directly to the cost of supplies and materials provided to students. Some of the costs that these fees offset are the wear and tear on course textbooks, required course exercise books and novels, printed supplies, internet access and other instructional resources consumed by students.

In conclusion, the Board of Trustees takes the issue of school fees very seriously. In the upcoming school year the Board will continue to gather input from school councils to further the debate on the 2013-2014 school year fees. More information on process and timelines will come out shortly via school councils and school administration. In order to be part of this discussion we encourage you to participate in your school council meetings.

Yours truly,

Board of Trustees
Livingstone Range School Division No. 68

