

552 COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Background

Schools are constructed, equipped, and operated at public expense. They serve as the focus for community activities. The Division, therefore, recognizes the need for local community participation in, and the use of, school equipment and facilities.

However, the Division is under no obligation to provide recreational facilities for the public at large and will not expend money raised for educational purposes, to subsidize public social and recreational activities.

Procedures

1. It is reasonable that Board facilities should be made available to the public under the following basic conditions:
 - a. The facilities are not required at that time by the school for either regular day or evening extra-curricular activities.
 - b. The Board incurs no cost by making the facilities available.
 - c. The user contracts to ensure that no abuse of Board property takes place.
 - d. The Board at all times maintains the position that public use of Board property is a privilege extended under clearly understood conditions and by no means a right.
 - e. The user shall ensure that alcohol is not consumed on school property.
2. With goodwill, common sense and a clearly understood and effectively implemented joint use agreement, there is an excellent chance for the Division to acquit its primary legal obligation to students and school programs while allowing the public at large to benefit from the existence of Division-owned facilities in the community.
3. Authority to grant community use of school facilities shall rest with the Principal.
4. Annually, the Division will establish a fee to be charged for community use of schools taking into consideration the following:
 - a. Basic charge.
 - b. Extra care-taking charge.
 - c. Security

- d. Insurance.
 - e. Damage deposit.
5. School buildings shall be available for student instruction and related extracurricular activities between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on days defined as school operating days.
 6. The Principal of each school has first priority for the use of the instructional facilities and equipment during non-school days and after 6:00 p.m., provided other qualified users are notified two weeks in advance of the school's intended use for school purposes.
 7. The Community Events Coordinator is authorized to approve the use of schools and equipment after hours.
 8. The Principal may approve the use of school facilities during school use hours for community programs to children as long as the program of the school is not affected.

References