

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The RSU #2 Board believes community use of school facilities, after hours, supports active living. Promotion of access to school recreational facilities, playgrounds, tennis courts, track, fields, walking paths, gymnasiums, etc. after school hours improves the likelihood that community members will be physically active. Increased facilities use by community members could deter criminal behavior and may enhance social networking, attributed to residents spending time outdoors and interacting with neighbors.

The schools of RSU #2 belong to the residents of Dresden, Farmingdale, Hallowell, Monmouth and Richmond. The school buildings and facilities should be available to responsible local community groups and individuals at as reasonable compensation as possible for activities that benefit residents. While the RSU #2 school board retains the right to make individual decisions regarding the use of school facilities, facilities will generally be made available with the superintendent's permission in keeping with the following guidelines.

A. PRIORITY USE OF FACILITIES

Facilities will be available to community organizations or individuals of Dresden, Farmingdale, Hallowell, Monmouth and Richmond for appropriate civic, cultural, educational, recreational or political activities which in the opinion of the superintendent do not interfere with the conduct of school programs or the best interests of the school system. School activities and programs will have first priority for use of school facilities.

B. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. No school facility shall be made available to any group that advocates unconstitutional or illegal acts.
2. No school facility shall be made available for any activities that are contrary to the best interests of the school system or to the educational welfare of the students of the RSU.
3. No school facility shall be made available for any purpose that may present a risk of damage to any school building, grounds or equipment.
4. Users of school facilities shall abide by all other adopted school board policies.
5. No school facility shall be made available for an event that has alcoholic beverages.

C. RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

Because of constitutional considerations involving church and state, the following additional restrictions shall apply to any use of a school facility by a religious group:

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1. The use of the school facility shall be temporary only.
2. The school facility shall not be used for worship, including funerals, unless the group in question is actively pursuing a plan to obtain or construct its own facility.
3. The use of the facility shall not occur during school hours. Memorials may be scheduled on weekends only.

D. CONDITIONS OF USE

1. It is the responsibility of the organizations or individuals using school facilities to leave them in the same condition in which they were received. If this is not done to the satisfaction of the appropriate building principal and/or head custodian, a charge shall be levied for any required clean up costs in excess of any fees that would otherwise be applicable.
2. All organizations or individuals using school facilities are responsible for the preservation of order during activities and are required to comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances and regulations in addition to any policies or conditions imposed upon by the school board. If security is deemed to be necessary, payment for police services shall be the responsibility of the organizations or individuals in question.
3. Any organizations or individuals using school facilities shall be responsible for any loss or damage to facilities or equipment. Proof of liability insurance (attach Certificate of Liability) or adequate financial resources to meet this condition will be required prior to approval for use of the facility.
4. Kitchen facilities may be used if a member of the RSU kitchen staff is present and supervising use of equipment.
5. During the school year, if school is cancelled for any reason on the day of your event, your event is also cancelled.

E. COMPENSATION FOR USE

1. To the extent possible, the hours during which school facilities are used should coincide with the hours during which custodians are on regularly scheduled duty.
2. Users of facilities during times when custodians are not on duty shall either:
 - a. pay expenses for a custodian to open the facility and clean up after the event; or
 - b. Users of facilities for private, individual functions shall pay rental fees and expenses for a custodian to open the facility and clean up after the event in accordance with the rental rates KF-R.
3. If the superintendent determines that the facility has not been properly maintained by the designated individuals, a custodian may be assigned and the expense for

these custodial services will become the responsibility of those persons using the facilities or permission to use the facilities may be revoked.

4. Organizations or individuals which charge admission for their activities may be charged a fee for use of the facility. The school board shall approve a schedule of fees for facility use based upon actual costs as determined by the administration. [see Addendum Fee Schedule]
5. The RSU reserves the right to require organizations or individuals to hire school personnel to be present during the scheduled activity.

F. APPLICATION FOR USE OF FACILITIES

1. All applications shall be made to the principal of the building for which the activity is planned. If the application satisfies the provisions of this policy, it shall be submitted with conditions of use and the principal's signature to the superintendent for review and signature.
2. The superintendent, or his designee, is authorized to approve and arrange the scheduling of requests for use of school facilities.
3. Applications shall be made in a timely fashion well in advance of the expected use, so that scheduling of facilities can be coordinated. However, normally no application for use of space more than six months in advance will be considered.

G. REVOCATION OF PERMISSION

The right is reserved by the school board to revoke any permission for use of school facilities at any time and without prior notice or liability should the board determine that such action is necessary or desirable.

H. APPEALS

In the event that the use of school facilities is denied by the building principal or superintendent, that denial may be appealed to the school board.

Legal Reference: Title 20-A M.R.S.A., Section 1001

Cross Reference: JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession

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