

POLICY KF – COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Amesbury School Committee subscribes to the notion that the public schools are owned and operated for its patrons & that the schools become an integral part of the community in terms of its intellectual and social expression and development.

Authorization for use of the school facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity, group or organization nor for the purposes they represent.

School-sponsored activities shall have priority, followed by City of Amesbury sanctioned organizations and community organizations. Such use will be determined by the district policy & will be only at such times as the facilities are available from district curricular, co-curricular & extra-curricular activities.

Use of School Facilities

The use of school buildings, grounds and fields, equipment and all facilities will be authorized by the Superintendent or designee in conformity with the following regulations governing their use as approved by the School Committee.

Although requests will be accepted 30 calendar days in advance, individuals are encouraged to make requests for facility usage at least 60 days in advance, especially when fees are required. Emergency requests will be considered on an individual basis.

All activities must be under competent adult supervision approved by the Director of Finance & Operations or designee at the building involved. In all cases, an assigned school employee shall be present. The group using the facilities will be responsible for any damage to the building, field or equipment/apparatus.

Groups receiving permission are restricted to dates and hours approved, and to the building area, field or facilities specified, unless requested changes are approved by the Director of Finance & Operations or designee.

Groups receiving permission are subject to the observance of city and state safety fire codes.

The use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, foul language, gambling in any form or any other such activity restricted by state law, district policies or handbooks is not permitted on school premises. Smoking of any kind within the building or on school grounds is NOT permitted.

Liability insurance will be required for all non-school related groups given permission to use school facilities. Organizers of any activity not under the direct supervision of the Amesbury Public Schools must provide a certificate of insurance endorsed to name the Amesbury Public Schools as an additional insured.

The School Committee, Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Finance and Operations, reserve the right to cancel any permission granted.

Religious Organizations

All groups who use the school facilities for religious purposes must pay a fee, which shall be the same for all religious denominations. Distribution of materials is subject to the policies of the Amesbury Public Schools.

Should religious organizations wish to use the school facilities for other than religious services & or events, separate applications should be filed and said applications will be considered in the same manner as any other civic or recreational request.

Priorities for Use of School Facilities

The Prioritization of the Use of School Facilities is outlined in KF-R Community Use of School Facilities Regulation. The right to authorize use of facilities shall be retained by the School Committee, Superintendent of Schools, and the Director of Finance and Operations. Such use will be determined by district policy & will only at such times as the facilities required are available from district curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities.

The school committee will cooperate with recognized agencies, such as the Red Cross, Civil Defense, Police & Fire agencies and will make suitable facilities available without charge during community emergency or to prepare for civil defense.

Fees for Use of School Facilities

The School Committee will approve and periodically review the fee schedule for the use of facilities.

In situations where there is no cost to the district, or the renter is a non-profit Amesbury Youth Organization, or in any situations where mutual exchange of facilities is possible between the school district and the organization, or when the district requests a change in location, rates may be waived or modified by the Superintendent and the Director Finance & Operations. In situations where extended usage for a long period of time is required, rates may be set at a contract price.

Legal Refs: MGL 71:71; 71:71B; c272-40a

Adopted: 1988

Revised: 1989; 1998; 2000; 2003; 2005; 2009; 2023