

## **Community Relations**

### **Use of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment**

The Board of Education permits and encourages the use of school facilities by the Stamford community in accordance with the law and current Board of Education policies and regulations.

The Board of Education may grant the use of school facilities for activities of an educational, cultural, civic, recreation, governmental or general political nature, and other uses consistent with the public interest when such use does not interfere with school programming or school sponsored activities.

The use of facilities shall not interfere with the educational process, academically or financially.

The use of school buildings, grounds, equipment, and facilities will be authorized by the Superintendent the Superintendent's or designee in conformity with the regulations governing their use.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee at all times shall have the authority to limit or deny access to any school facility or property without further action by this Board. Such closure shall continue until such time as the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, in consultation with appropriate health and/or government authorities, deems is in the best interest of the District and its students to reopen said facilities and property.

To fulfill this policy, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to establish and update as needed: rental rates, guidelines, procedures and regulations that will enable the Board to retain managerial control and cover cost for monitoring, security, maintenance, overhead, and depreciation.

Guidelines, procedures, rental rates, and the School Building Use Application are available on the Stamford Public Schools website.

The Board of Education requires any organization using school facilities to provide certificates of adequate insurance as required by and subject to the approval of the City of Stamford Risk Manager.

The Board of Education is not responsible for damage or injury as the result of use of school property and the person or organization granted use of school property shall indemnify, hold harmless and, at the Stamford Public School's option, defend the Stamford Public Schools, the Stamford Board of Education and the City of Stamford, including their officers, agents, employees, Commissions, Committees and Boards, from any third party claims for such losses to property or person arising out of said use. The foregoing indemnity shall include reasonable attorneys' fees and cost of suit, shall not be limited by reason of any insurance coverages required for such use and shall survive the termination of the permit for such use.

The Boy Scouts of America, Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Future Farmers of America, Girl Scouts of America, Little League Baseball, Inc., and any other group intended to serve youth under the age of 21 listed in Title 36 of the U.S. Code may use school property upon payment of suitable fees and costs according to the Board approved fee schedule.

#### **Legal Reference:**

Connecticut General Statutes

10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.

PA 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

*Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, Sup.Ct., 6-11-01

20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

**Policy Adopted:**

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**Policy Revised:**

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