Destruction or Theft of School Property

Incidents of willful or malicious abuse, destruction, defacing, and theft of school district property are clearly contrary to the best interests of the school district and injurious to the rights and welfare of the entire community. The District will seek legal redress against persons found to have committed such acts as well as full restitution for costs incurred in repairing damage or replacing stolen property.

Destruction or theft of personal property on school grounds is regarded as a serious act requiring thorough investigation. While the district cannot accept liability for missing or damaged personal property, efforts will be made by district staff to apprehend and seek restitution from those responsible.

Teachers have a responsibility to instill within students a respect for school property and the property of others and to report to the building principal any acts of destruction within the building or on school grounds and any suspicion of theft of school or personal property.

The building principal or other district administrator shall notify the Fargo Police Department of any serious incidents of vandalism or theft. Full cooperation will be given to the Fargo Police Department and judicial authorities in their efforts to apprehend and convict those responsible for such incidents.

The District may accept private donations to establish a reward fund to encourage the furnishing of information leading to the apprehension and conviction of any person(s) appropriating or destroying property or equipment belonging to the school district. The District may also contribute to a reward fund to the extent permitted by law.

Full restitution for the damage caused will be sought from the responsible persons. In the case of minors, restitution will be sought from the minors, from their parents, or from both under the laws of this state.

Restitution for Damages or Replacement Costs
Adults who are apprehended will be held responsible for payment for any loss or damage. Parents or guardians of juveniles under the age of 18 are responsible for vandalism, loss and damage caused by their children. Legal procedures may be instituted at the recommendation of the Superintendent. NDCC 32-03-39 provides that parents may be held liable for damages caused by their minor children for an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars, in addition to taxable court costs. Civil proceedings may also be initiated against the parents, the juvenile or both for actual and/or punitive damages.

The building principal or other district administrator will notify the Business Manager of any loss or damage to district property. The Business Manager will recommend the appropriate actions which may include but are not limited to:

- Contact those responsible for the damage and the parents, if minors are involved, to arrange restitution payments;

- Arrange for restitution payments through the juvenile authorities;
- Criminal prosecution;
- Civil legal action.

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