

Community Relations

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The policy of the Schalmont Central School District shall coincide with the regulations as prescribed in Section 414, Article 9, of the Education Law. Briefly, school facilities may be used as follows:

- a) For educational instruction;
- b) For public libraries or branch stations thereof;
- c) For activities or entertainment adding to the welfare of the community as long as they shall be open to the general public;
- d) For programs with paid admissions, as long as the proceeds are applied to education or charity. No programs may be held, however, which are under the exclusive control of a religious sect, denomination or organization or of a fraternal, secret or exclusive society other than veterans of the military service of the United States or volunteer firemen;
- e) For polling places but not political meetings;
- f) For civic forums and community centers upon petition of at least 25 citizens residing within the District;
- g) School grounds will be available for recreational use by the community subject only to the control necessary for the safety of individuals. However, the use of such facilities and grounds for activities which may be dangerous, disturbing or destructive is prohibited, including the use of roller skates, roller blades or skate boards;
- h) For classes of instruction for students with disabilities under the auspices of private organizations;
- i) For recreation, physical training and athletics, including athletic contests or private not-for-profit schools;
- j) For child care services during non-school hours which are not provided at the expense of the school district.

Activity calendars will be kept by each building principal so that he/she may allow the use of facility in accordance with the above policy. Non-school organizations wishing to use the facility will file, at least one week in advance, a written request (see Appendix A) with the building principal. The written request must be accompanied by a certificate of insurance. If the facility is used by outside groups or under unusual circumstances, a rental fee may be made to cover identifiable costs. The building principal may require the provision of police services for which an additional charge will be made.

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This policy will have flexibility and special cases not covered will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

Use of School Facilities For Private Purposes

The Board of Education recognizes and accepts its responsibilities in connection with custody, control, and supervision of schoolhouses, grounds, and all property belonging to the District as provided in Section 414 of the Education Law.

In view of this responsibility the Board of Education categorically prohibits the use of any real or personal property belonging to the District, when such use is for private purposes and not in the public interest. On the other hand, the Board of Education reserves the right to waive this prohibition when such intended use is not prejudicial to the public good.

When intended, private use of District-owned property cannot be anticipated sufficiently in advance to permit Board of Education action upon the request, and in emergencies, the Superintendent of Schools may waive the above policy, at his/her discretion and notify the Board of Education at the earliest possible time.

Recreational Sunday Use of Facilities

The Board of Education accepts the responsibilities implicit in its legal stewardship of all District owned property and facilities, including the necessary establishment of rules, regulations, and general conditions under which the use of said property and facilities may be extended to the general public within the District.

The Board of Education does not believe that the Sunday use of school facilities for recreational purposes is in the best interest of the District and, therefore, has neither the intention nor desire to encourage the expanded use of District facilities for the purpose. On the other hand, the Board does not consider Sunday recreation to be detrimental to the best interest of the District, and provides for the use of District facilities in this connection as follows:

- a) When a facility is to be used on Sunday, the activity must be under the supervision of a principal, a teacher employed by the District, or a leader of a responsible group.
- b) If the group using the facility is unorganized, opportunity to use the facility must be open to all.
- c) When the supervision is other than a principal or a teacher, a custodian must be on duty.

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- e) Requests for Sunday recreational use of facilities must be made by completing the same written request form (Appendix A) and filed with the building principal and approved by him/her, at least one week in advance of the requested date.
- f) When custodial services are required the costs for same are to be borne by those requesting Sunday recreational use of facilities.
- g) The foregoing should not be construed to imply obligation upon any District personnel to supervise school facility use on Sundays.

Education Law Section 414

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