Community Use of School Facilities

The Board of Education recognizes that the primary purpose of the District’s facilities is to implement the regular instructional program.

Community groups shall be permitted and encouraged to use school facilities for worthwhile purposes when such uses will not interfere with the school program.

The Board of Education further recognizes that there are costs involved in the use of facilities and that charges may need to be assessed so that public tax money is not used to support non-district activities. (For current fee categories and amounts, refer to KF-R-2 and KF-R-3). Additional charges for custodial and other personnel may be assessed if such personnel’s normal work schedule is altered to assist the activity.

Permission for use of district facilities does not constitute endorsement of any organization, the beliefs of an organization, individual, or group, nor the expression of any opinion regarding the nomination, retention, election, or defeat of any candidate, nor the expression of any opinion as to the passage or defeat of any issue. Users of district facilities are subject to all applicable laws and regulations, including, but not limited to those which: prohibit discrimination based upon age, sex, national origin, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or disability; ban the use/distribution of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, or the possession of weapons on school grounds.

The district reserves the right to refuse approval or to cancel any and all facility use agreements issued for the use of a school building, grounds, or its facilities when it is deemed by the superintendent or designee that such action is necessary for the best interest of the district. Occasionally it may become necessary to cancel or reschedule a previously scheduled non-district activity if a conflict with a district activity arises.

All arrangements shall be subject to the following provisions:

Organizations, including 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 U.S. Code, may use school property upon payment of suitable fees and costs, according to the fee schedule approved by the board. Rental or fees may be waived for charitable or other nonprofit organizations or groups by the superintendent of designee. The Board may waive rental charges of other fees for charitable or other nonprofit organizations or groups.

If a community group is permitted to use a school or other facility, the school principal may designate a district employee, paid for by the organization when, in the opinion of school principal, it is necessary to supervise the individuals and protect school property. The number and type of paid employees shall depend on the type of service, number to be served and number of volunteer helpers. If a cafeteria is used, then it shall be under the supervision of a school cafeteria manager or designee.

No school building or facility shall be used for any unlawful purpose, including picketing, rioting, disturbing the peace or damage to property or for any purpose prohibited by law.

**Rental charges and approval of use**

Specific regulations for scheduling outside uses of school facilities shall be drawn up by the superintendent and approved by the board. Fees for the use of school facilities shall be determined by the superintendent or designee based upon the rental fees and other charges approved by the superintendent or designee.

All rentals of school facilities shall be approved by the superintendent or designee on the basis of this policy and its accompanying regulations. Any special requests or exception to policy and/or regulations must be approved by the Board.

Any individual, group or organization using school facilities as provided under this policy shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the district, Board of Education, individual Board members and all district officers, agents and employees, and any person whose property may be within the school facility from any loss, damage, liability, cost or expense that may arise during or be in any way caused by such use or occupancy. When using school facilities, organizations/individuals will be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of liability insurance protection, in the minimum amount of $1,000,000 per occurrence. The certificate of insurance must have an endorsement naming the Elizabeth School District as an additional insured.
A violation of any provision of this policy or its accompanying regulations shall be grounds for immediate cancellation of a current facility use agreement and/or denial of future facility use agreements.

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act)
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(f)

CROSS REFS.: EDC, Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials or Equipment
JJA-2, Student Organizations – Open Forum (Secondary Schools)