

**State College Area School District
Office of Physical Plant
Ed Poprik, Director**

To: Board of School Directors

From: Ed Poprik

RE: **Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities**

Date: October 27, 2008

Please consider the following background information as a starting point for discussions regarding Policy 707. (attached)

Background-

After hours use of our school facilities is available to School Groups (class A), Centre Region Municipal and Centre County Government organizations (class B), Nonprofit/Nonschool-related Community Organizations (class C), and Private Interest Groups (class D), in that order. The scheduling of spaces is generally organized by each building secretary, while the implementation of policy and appropriate billing is organized by Physical Plant. During the 2008 calendar year, we will exceed 20,000 individual events scheduled across our district buildings.

Late and Overnight events-

On March 10, 2003 the Board of School Directors limited the use of facilities by outside groups to 11:00 PM. The request for this change came from the Physical Plant office in response to a series of late night uses by outside groups, which resulted in vandalism to the buildings and disturbances outside the building requiring police response.

The recent overnight event at the High School North, granted by the Board as an exception to policy, was executed without any problems. While this event was well organized and posed little disruption, a change in policy may create an opening for the return of problematic events. Policy language and the consideration of case-by-case exceptions, should be carefully considered prior to any action.

Fees-

Through the Strategic Planning Process, an evaluation of the fee structure for building use has been suggested. (attached) Prior to the beginning of any study, the current fee structure and rationale should be reviewed by the Board. (attached)

The current fee structure was first developed 10 years ago and has been adjusted yearly for inflation. The original rationale was an attempt to recover actual costs from Class B and Class C users, and to replicate what might be expected on the “open market” for Class D users.

Since that time, energy costs have outpaced inflation and could be considered as a mitigating factor in this re-evaluation. Several strategies could be implemented to recover additional costs, including but not limited to: raising rates and consolidating users from many buildings across the district into fewer buildings thereby reducing general heating and lighting costs.

Other factors such as the assignment of technical support for more sophisticated venues could also be reviewed.

As part of this Board discussion, some general thoughts about the billing structure as well as the methodology for the study of revisions would be appreciated.