

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 10, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee L. Cleary, Chair, Policy Review Committee  
Trustee M. Janz, Policy Review Committee  
Trustee C. Ripley, Policy Review Committee

SUBJECT: Review of Board Policy JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings

ORIGINATOR: B. Smith, Executive Director

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Josephine Duquette, Roland Labbe, Lorne Parker, Cindy Skolski

RECOMMENDATION

1. That revised Board Policy JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings (Appendix II) be considered for the first time.
2. That revised Board Policy JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings (Appendix II) be considered for the second time.

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Board Policy JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings was last reviewed in 1997. The Administration has reviewed the policy and proposes to amend the policy by identifying the various methods surplus student learning spaces can be occupied in operational and closed buildings (Appendix I). In addition, the amendment will align the policy with the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities 2007 (JUA: F) by acknowledging the City of Edmonton's responsibility to represent community groups that access schools for sport and recreation purposes.

A policy review web-survey was conducted in accordance with board policy review procedures and was open for input from January 17 to February 14, 2011. Key stakeholder organizations and partners were notified of the policy review process and survey.

As a result we received a total of 194 responses with 79 being from parents, 39 Community/Professional Organizations, 31 Community Members, 28 Staff Members, 16 Principal/Decision Unit Administrators, and one undeclared. The majority of the respondents (68.8 per cent) do not believe that the policy requires clarification.

The majority of the comments and suggestions relate to amendments and clarifications to either the administrative regulations or the processes managed by the City of Edmonton relating to the JUA: F. The Administration will take into consideration the advice and input

received from parents, staff, and community members relating to the specific definitions and procedures included in Administrative Regulations JG.AR - Community Use of District Buildings and JGB.AR - Utilization of Surplus Space in District Schools.

A letter summarizing the comments pertaining to the City led processes will be shared with the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities Steering and Facility Management Committees for review. In addition, a letter from the Board Chair will be sent to the Mayor and Councillors alerting them to the information being shared with the committees.

This policy was presented to the Board of Trustees on April 13, 2011, and was amended to include the following requirement:

Those organizations leasing or licensing space must provide evidence of recognized, acceptable, social and ethical standards through policies, practices and procedures.

This change is reflected in the amended Appendix II.

The Policy has not been approved for first and second reading, and was referred to the administration to provide information regarding the operational implications of an additional proposed amendment to paragraph three of the policy, as follows:

Members of the community, *excluding publicly-traded companies providing day care and early education*, can access space through the following methods: ...

Operational implications could include:

- current for-profit day care and early education tenants who wish to change their corporate status to a publicly-traded company would become ineligible to remain as a District tenant, resulting in loss of lease revenue to schools and the District
- the provision of services to families and children that are compatible with school operations which publicly-traded for-profit daycare and early education entities might provide, and which could support improved school enrolments, may not be realized
- excluding possible tenants based on one type of private ownership would restrict the revenues that might be derived from such potential tenants, in terms of lease payments and potential capital investments in District space
- if the provincial utilization formula is amended in the future to recognize for-profit tenancies of this type, no improvements in utilization of District space could be achieved if the space cannot be leased to any publicly-traded companies providing day care and early education

In terms of comparative practices in other District policy areas, District policy DJ.BP - Purchasing establishes some priorities in terms of purchasing locally, before provincially or nationally, but there is no exclusion of publicly-traded companies. Therefore, there would be inconsistency between the proposed amended policy with other district policy. The expressed rationale for such an approach is not clear.

In terms of timing to implement any new policy requirements into District leases, lease renewals and many new leases for the coming school year have already been drafted and sent out to schools and tenants. It will not be possible to implement changes included in the final revised policy for the coming school year.

JD:gm

- Appendix I - Recommended Board Policy, JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings
- Appendix II - Existing version showing recommended changes to Board Policy, JG.BP - Community Use of District Buildings

**EXISTING BOARD POLICY  
JG.BP - COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT BUILDINGS**

**Edmonton Public Schools  
Board Policies and Regulations**

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CODE: JG.BP

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-02-1997

TOPIC: Community Use of District Buildings

ISSUE DATE: 16-05-1997

REVIEW DATE: 02-2002

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The Board believes the principles of the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities, which supports the sharing of publicly funded facilities to maximize benefits to students and citizens of the City of Edmonton, and also in the effective management of district facilities to meet the needs of students.

In support of this belief, the Board encourages the use of district buildings by the community provided there is no conflict with the District's mandate to provide (K-12) education and the use shall be compatible with the Board's educational aims and objectives. Surplus space can be utilized in operational and closed buildings.

Members of the community can access surplus space through the following methods:

1. As a group represented by the City of Edmonton under the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities.
2. As an occasional paid rental for groups not eligible under the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities.
3. As a group with exclusive use of space as specified in a lease agreement.
4. As a group with limited use of space as specified in a license agreement.
5. As a group with shared use of space who provide support services which directly benefit the students at the school through a specific agreement with the school.

Fees for paid rentals will be determined annually by the Superintendent.

Leases are intended to be at no cost to the District. Information regarding leases in the District shall be provided to the Board annually.

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Reference(s):

JG.AR - Community Use of District Buildings

JGB.AR – Utilization of Surplus Space in District Schools

**PROPOSED JG.BP - COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT BUILDINGS  
DISPLAYS PROPOSED EDITS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION**

**Edmonton Public Schools  
Board Policies and Regulations**

CODE: JG.BP

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-02-1997

TOPIC: Community Use of District Buildings

ISSUE DATE: 16-05-1997

REVIEW DATE: 02-2002

The Board believes in ~~cooperating with community organizations to meet the educational and recreational needs of the community~~ the principles of the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities, which supports the sharing of publicly funded facilities to maximize benefits to students and citizens of the City of Edmonton, and also in the effective management of district facilities to meet the needs of students.

In support of this belief, the Board encourages the use of district buildings by the community provided there is no conflict with ~~school programs~~ the District's mandate to provide (K-12) education ~~Use of district space leased by other users and the use shall be compatible with the Board's educational aims and objectives.~~ Surplus space can be utilized in operational and closed buildings.

Members of the community can access surplus space through the following methods:

1. As a group represented by the City of Edmonton under the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities.
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Fees for paid rentals will be determined annually by the Superintendent.

Leases are intended to be at no cost to the District. Information regarding leases in the District shall be provided to the Board annually.

Those organizations leasing or licensing space must provide evidence of recognized, acceptable, social and ethical standards through policies, practices and procedures.

Reference(s):

[JG.AR](#) - Community Use of District Buildings

[JGB.AR](#) – Utilization of Surplus Space in District Schools