

Policy Title	Community Use of Schools		
Date of Issue	May 18, 2010	Related Procedure	AP 5901-D
Revision Dates	November 15, 2011; February 21, 2017	Related Forms	
Review Date	February 1, 2022	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
Ministry of Education Memo 2006:B13 Community Use of Schools Program; Education Act; BP 7520-D “Human Rights”; Human Rights Code; Elections Act			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 The board supports the Community Use of Schools initiative as set out in the Ministry of Education Memo 2006:B13 Community Use of Schools Program.
- 1.3 Bluewater District School Board is committed to making its educational facilities available for community use (within the established guidelines), recognizing their importance to the community, considering the priority of educational programs and administrative requirements, and with due regard for the protection and maintenance of board property.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 The primary responsibility of Bluewater District School Board is to provide quality education to students. Community use should not interfere with daily instructional programs and school sponsored extra-curricular programs; therefore school activities, extra-curricular activities and parent involvement activities organized or administered by the school or school board, have priority use of school space during and after regular school hours. All efforts will be made to honour signed permits with user groups.
- 2.2 Bluewater District School Board will make its facilities available in a fair and equitable manner for community use, recognizing the importance of providing the public with a place to come together, volunteer, build skills, access community programs and become physically active.
- 2.3 Bluewater District School Board is committed to creating affordable access to educational facilities for community members, parent groups and community organizations in accordance with administrative procedures outlined in AP 5901-D “Community Use of Schools”.
- 2.4 This policy will be implemented within the expectations of BP 7520-D “Human Rights, the Ontario *Human Rights Code, the Elections Act*, and all other applicable legislation, board policies, administrative procedures, and Strategic Plan priorities.

3.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1 Board employees, their immediate families, School Council members and trustees shall not benefit materially, financially or personally from community use of schools activities.
- 3.2 Programs of general interest to the community, which align with the board's Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan Priorities, may be publicized using the Community Education section of the board's website.
- 3.3 Community users will adhere to AP 5901-D "Community Use of Schools".
- 3.4 User groups will assume all liability and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the board from and against all losses and demands whatsoever.
- 3.5 School board facilities represent a large investment that must be protected, safe and secure.
- 3.6 Activities scheduled must not compromise the safety of staff and students.