



1630

Political Meetings

Policy 1630

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Review Dates:

I. PURPOSE

District facilities including all structures and real property controlled by the school district are public facilities in the State of Minnesota. While schools are primarily reserved for the purpose of education, their use for other civic, public or private uses is authorized by the state legislature, and controlled by the board of directors. The board of directors acknowledges the responsibility of all of its employees to participate in the civic life of their communities and supports the participation of employees in the democratic process. The purpose of this policy is to address specifically the effect of political activity on school district facility use, and the exercise of employee's rights to participation in political caucuses and elections.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. School buildings may be used under a properly issued use permit for:
 - 1. Major political party caucuses;
 - 2. Major political party conventions;
 - 3. Political meetings.
- B. The district may charge the requesting party a reasonable rental fee, custodial fees, and security fees as part of the conditions for the use permit.
- C. The district may require the requesting party to provide adequate supervision and security as part of the conditions for the use permit.
- D. Use permits granted under this policy shall incorporate the requirements of all general use permits granted by the district including restrictions on use of the equipment and facilities of Culinary Services and audio-visual equipment and facilities.

III. LIMITATION ON EVENTS

- A. On the day of a political caucus no school board meeting, school board committee meeting, or school event, athletic contest or performance shall be scheduled after six o'clock p.m. (6:00 p.m.) on that day.
- B. On the day of an election no school board meeting, school board committee meeting, school event, athletic contest or performance shall be scheduled between six o'clock p.m. (6:00 p.m.) and eight o'clock p.m. (8:00 p.m.)



- C. Classes regularly taught in an elementary or secondary school program after 6:00 p.m. may be conducted on an election day as normal, or may be cancelled by the Superintendent.
- D. Classes regularly taught in an elementary or secondary school program after 6:00 p.m. shall be cancelled on the day of a political caucus.

IV. EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

- A. Every employee is entitled to attend a caucus without penalty or deduction from salary or wages other than a deduction in wages or salary for the time the employee was absent from scheduled work periods.
- B. Employees who need to be absent from work in order to cast their vote in any federal, state, local government or school board election be absent. Such absence shall be without penalty or deduction from salary or wages.

V. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, these definitions shall apply:

- A. "Caucus" means a meeting of members of or supporters of a political party called for the purpose of the election of delegates and other business of the political party.
- B. "Convention" means an organized body of delegates assembled for the purpose of transacting the business of a major political party.
- C. "Major political party" means a political party that qualifies as a major political party under the laws of the state of Minnesota.
- D. "Political meeting" shall mean any meeting where:
 - 1. The attendees are addressed by any person who has filed as a candidate of nomination at the primary election or
 - 2. The attendees are addressed by any person who has become a candidate for the general election, or
 - 3. The attendees are addressed by any person speaking on behalf of any candidate, or
 - 4. The attendees are addressed by any person speaking about or upholding the tenets of any political party; or
 - 5. The candidacy of any person for election are to be discussed; or
 - 6. The tenets of any party or group are to be discussed.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. §123B.51 Subd. 2 (Schoolhouses and Sites; Uses for School and Nonschool Purposes)
Minn. Stat. §202A.19 (Caucuses, School Schedule Preemption...)



Subd. 1 (Limits on local government meetings)
Subd. 4 (Use of public school buildings)
Subd. 5 (Limits on public school events)
Minn. Stat. §202A. 192 (Use of Public Facilities)
Minn. Stat. §204C.03 (Public Meetings Prohibited on Election Day)
Minn. Stat. §204C. 04 (Employees; Time off to vote)

Cross References:

MPS Policy 1600 (Use of District Facilities)
MPS Policy 1500 (Participation in Community Life)
MPS Policy 4000 (Equal Employment Opportunity)
MPS Policy 5000 (Equal Education Opportunity)