

Nicole Briand

From: Ryan Larsen <larsenr@link75.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:18 PM
To: recreation@town.harpswell.me.us; Jason Lamoreau; recreation@bowdoinmaine.gov; pleduc@topshammaine.com; Nicole Briand
Cc: Heidi O'Leary; Hutson Hayward
Subject: Fwd: Update
Attachments: Policy KF-R Update.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello All

I am reaching out on behalf of the MSAD 75 School Board to provide a bit more clarity on recent updates to our facility use fees and to address any misunderstandings that have come to light in recent days regarding Policy KF-R. Please find the attached letter hoping to both clarify where things currently stand and to outline the course of action moving forward. As Chair, I would ask that all further feedback and discussion be directed to the Board rather than Superintendent O'Leary as the issues and concerns relate to policy, which is the Board's purview. Superintendent O'Leary is focused on ensuring those policies are followed.

Two quick items to highlight from the letter are:

1. We will be discussing this topic further at our September 25th Board meeting. I would like to invite you all to that meeting and if that evening doesn't work well for your schedule, please feel free to share any perspectives prior.
2. On Thursday September 11, the Board voted to suspend the fee requirement for MSAD75 municipal recreation departments and institute a "pay-what-you-can" approach for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Thank you all for your understanding as we work through this issue and wishing you a pleasant day.
Ryan

Ryan Larsen
Chair, MSAD No75 School Board

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Dr. Heidi O'Leary - Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Amanda Hersey - Assistant Superintendent of Schools

September 17, 2025

Good Afternoon, Fellow Community Leaders,

Thank you for your candid communication regarding the updated Policy KF-R – Procedure for Community Use of School Facilities. I appreciate your engagement and want to acknowledge the important concerns you've raised, as well as provide some helpful context.

Per Policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities, the fee schedules of Policy KF-R are intended to be re-assessed annually by the Policy Committee. While this was not done consistently after its passage in 2016, the 2025 re-assessment was done over several Policy Committee meetings in the spring and summer, and adopted by the Board in June. The associated fees are not intended to be a barrier, but were calculated to cover real operational costs such as custodial time, lighting, field preparation, and other expenses.

When Superintendent O'Leary and her designees began working with the revised rates on upcoming reservations, concerns and opposition were raised from multiple municipal organizations. The Superintendent came to myself, as Board Chair, and Hutson Hayward as Chair of the Policy Committee, to discuss appropriate next steps. We decided to add an item to the agenda for the September 11th Board Meeting to discuss the situation with the full Board.

At that meeting, the Board discussed the concerns that had been brought to the Superintendent, and decided that, while further work was needed on the policy as part of its next annual update, the situation as it stood with our municipal recreation departments was not tenable, and so voted to suspend the KF-R fee schedule for member municipal recreation departments for the 2025-2026 school year, while empowering the Superintendent to negotiate "pay-what-you-can" agreements as appropriate.

Amy Hall - Special Education Director
Michele Osmolski - Human Resources Director
Allen Lampert - Adult Education Director
Evan Howard - Business Manager
Nicholas Riggie - Technology Director
Tom Kane - Transportation Director
Amanda Johnson - Food Services Director

After that meeting, Superintendent O'Leary began conversations with member municipal recreation departments regarding the outcome of that vote, which led to further concerns being relayed.

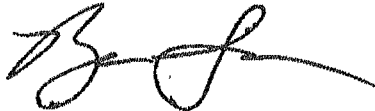
Overall, these events have made clear that we have a conflict between practice and documentation in policy. While the Board's action at the September 11th meeting has provided relief for the current school year, the uncertainty remaining is unduly affecting the relationships between the District out member municipalities.

To provide clarity for the future, the Board is taking the following steps.

- 1) We have added an item to the September 25th Board Meeting agenda, for the Board to discuss Policy KF-R more fully, so as to give the Policy Committee clear guidance.
- 2) I have asked the Policy Committee to take up Policy KF-R at the October 15th committee meeting, to address and incorporate the Board feedback.
- 3) I have asked the Superintendent and Policy Committee to permanently move the review of KF-R to the fall, so that any future changes are adopted and communicated before municipal or school district budget processes are complete.
- 4) Based on the current situation, I have requested that the Superintendent apply the "pay-what-you-can" directive flexibly, with the expectation that no fees being charged is a likely outcome.

In taking these actions, my goal is to provide the Board and Superintendent with clear expectations for our own next steps within the District, and to provide clear communications to our member municipalities that their concerns have been heard and are being addressed quickly and responsibly, and through proper channels.

Thank you all very much.



Ryan Larsen

Chair, M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors

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Michele Osmulski - Human Resources Director
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