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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT/INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

School District properties will be maintained in good physical condition: safe, clean, and sanitary, and as comfortable and convenient as the facilities will permit or the use requires. In the event the District receives money from the state School Building Aid program, the district will develop a 20-year maintenance plan, as required by statute.

The Facilities Director, who reports to the Business Administrator, will have the general responsibility for the care, custody, and safekeeping of all school property, establishing such procedures and employing such means as may be necessary to discharge responsibility.

The School District will work in coordination with the City Community Services Department to maintain shared-use grounds, including but not limited to playgrounds and playing fields. Decisions about which products to use for turf management, and pest control, and weed control will be made with the best interest of the student's health and well-being, and keeping the health of our environment in mind. The City and Schools will regularly review pest management techniques in keeping with best practices in the turf management industry. In fulfilling their obligation to ensure safe and useable public green spaces around the city and schools, the City and School Department will continue to seek the safest and most cost-effective means for turf treatments, ensuring at all times, the means and materials used are safe and applied in conformance with proven acceptable practices and regulatory standards.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program will provide for the safest and lowest risk approach to controlling pest problems while protecting people, the environment and property. The IPM program focuses on long-term prevention and ensures that non-chemical methods will be considered first when selecting appropriate pest and weed control techniques. The District will strive to eliminate the use of all chemical controls. Pests will be controlled to protect the health and safety of students and staff, maintain a productive learning environment and maintain the integrity of school buildings and grounds.

Turf management and pest control products will be used when students are not on the property and areas treated will be posted as such. The District will make all reasonable efforts to follow the Principles of Natural Turf Management, provided that those methods both address the need for usable turf surfaces and preserve the investment of the property being treated.

The following turf care procedures will be implemented:

- Each field will be Soil tested on an annual basis
- Fields will be top-dressed with compost as needed
- Each field will receive a plug aeration, a slice aeration, and a deep tine aeration
- Each field will be slice seeded using native and common type grass seed

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- Strategic turf replacement with pre-cut sod will be placed in wear areas as needed (goal mouths). Lime will be applied to all fields to maintain proper PH balance
- Appropriate Fertilizer applications 4 times per year to encourage deep and healthy root growth.

The appropriate weed and pest control will be used only “as needed”. There will be no automatic application of weed control or pest control. Irrigation control to maintain the appropriate saturation of the soil and all fields will be maintained between at a height of 2 1/2” to 3” except Fiske field in the fall that is required to be not more than 1” in height for Field Hockey.

In those instances where pesticide products fall outside of these specific guidelines, the District’s decisions on pest management methods or product selection will conform to the spirit and intent of this policy and these guidelines

The District will use only those pest management products that can be applied in a manner at a time where no person will inhale or come into direct contact with them, or be exposed to volatile agents.

At the building level, the principal will work in collaboration with maintenance and custodial staff to oversee the school plant ensure the proper care of school property by staff and students.

Legal References

RSA 198:15-b Amount of Grant