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*denotes areas covered by Board policy

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

Staff members have a responsibility to promote good school-community relations. The school-community relations program is directed by the Superintendent and is based upon the following principles.

1. The school-community relations program is a systematic, two-way process of communications between the District and the community.
2. The District may use media sources and other forms of communications available to effectively communicate with the citizens and employees.
3. Communications with the public should promote involvement, objective appraisal and support.
4. Communications should be internal as well as external and provide factual, objective and realistic data.
5. School communications should be responsive both to events as they arise and to evaluations of the process.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives
BK, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The Board supports the right of the people to know about the programs and services of their schools and makes efforts to disseminate appropriate information. Each building principal is authorized and expected to keep the school's community informed about the school's programs and activities. The release of information of Districtwide interest is coordinated by the Superintendent.

Business of the Board is discussed and decisions are made at public meetings of the Board, except such matters required to be discussed in private executive sessions.

The official minutes of the Board, its written policies, its financial records and all other public records are open for inspection in the central office during the hours when the administrative offices are open.

Each Board member attends public records training every term for which he/she is elected to public office. However, the Board may, by resolution, designate one or more persons to attend public records training on its behalf. If so decided, the Board appoints a designee whenever the composition of the Board changes.

The District may ask that the identity of an individual requesting information and the reason the information is sought be in writing. The District first informs the requester that such disclosure is not mandatory, unless the request is for student directory information. The District also informs the requester that providing such information in writing enhances the District's ability to identify, locate or deliver the records sought. The District may also ask that the request be put in writing, but notifies the requester that it is not mandatory to do so.

Any individual who wants to obtain or inspect a copy of a public record may request to have the record duplicated on paper, on the same medium on which the record is kept or on any other medium that the Superintendent/designee determines reasonable. If the request is ambiguous or overly broad, the District informs the requester of the manner in which records are maintained and accessed in the ordinary course of business and allows the requester to revise the request.

Records pertaining to individual students and other confidential materials are not released for inspection. Only that information deemed "directory information" may be released from an individual student's file, and only after complying with the regulations prepared by the administration for the release of such information. Student directory information is not released when parents have affirmatively withdrawn their consent to release in writing. Student records that consist of "personally identifiable information" generally are exempt from disclosure.

All records responsive to the request are made available in a reasonable period of time. The District makes the requester aware of any information that is exempt from disclosure requirements by notifying the requester of any redacted information or by making redactions in a plainly visible manner. If a public records request is denied, the District provides an explanation with legal authority for the denial of the request. This explanation is provided in writing if the request is made in writing or if the Superintendent/designee determines written explanation is necessary.

The Superintendent/designee transmits the information sought by mail or by any other means of delivery requested, if the method is reasonably available. The number of mail requests sent to any one person may be limited to 10 a month unless the person certifies, in writing, that neither the records nor the information in them will be used for commercial purposes.

A fee of 20 cents per copy may be charged for copies and/or delivery. The District may require the fee charged for copies and/or delivery be paid in advance.

The Board's public records policy is posted in a conspicuous location in the central office and in all other District buildings and employee handbooks provided by the District. The policy is distributed directly to the records custodian and receipt of the policy by the custodian is acknowledged. A copy of the records retention schedule is maintained and readily available to the public in the central office.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: September 24, 2012]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC, Section 1232g
ORC 121.22
149.011; 149.35; 149.381; 149.41; 149.43
3319.321
OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: BDC, Executive Sessions
BDDG, Minutes
EHA, Data and Records Retention
GBL, Personnel Records
GBS, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
JO, Student Records
KA, School-Community Relations Goals
KKA, Recruiters in the Schools

NEWS RELEASES

The District is a public institution endeavoring to serve the educational needs of the community. It is important that information be disseminated concerning school activities and problems. The Superintendent develops procedures to provide wide coverage and to coordinate publicity which enhances the image of the District.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

NEWS RELEASES

The procedures regarding news releases are as follows.

1. The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Board, except as this duty is delegated to the Superintendent or another Board member.
2. News releases which are of a Districtwide nature or pertain to established Board policy are the responsibility of the Superintendent or a designated member of the administrative staff.
3. The Board expects the administration to maintain a vital and effective link with the media sources of the community. This includes a variety of forms and forums. This effort is directed by the Board President or his/her designee.

(Approval date: January 24, 2011)

TAX ISSUES

The Board examines financial needs in advance of any levy or bond elections. The Board provides the public with information on school building needs and on levy and bond elections. It does not use District funds to promote approval of school-related tax issues.

Tax reduction factors are considered in coordination with the sexennial property appraisal in affected district counties. In considering a potential tax issue, the Board examines all legal options to obtain additional revenue.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art XII, Sections 2, 5
ORC Chapter 133
3311.21
3313.37; 3313.375
3315.07
3501.01
Chapter 5705
5748.01 et seq.

CROSS REF.: FL, Retirement of Facilities

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Community participation in the schools is essential to promote and maintain the quality of education for all students.

In addition to electing fellow citizens to represent them on the Board, all citizens may express ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools to the administration, to the staff, to any appointed advisory bodies and ultimately to the Board. Ideas should be addressed to the responsible individual in an appropriate fashion.

The Board gives consideration to the advice it receives from individuals and community groups. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education
BCE, Board Committees
BK, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures
FL, Retirement of Facilities
IF, Curriculum Development

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board and Board-appointed committees are open to the public.

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

Agendas are available to all those who attend Board meetings. The section on the agenda for public participation shall be indicated. Noted at the bottom of each agenda shall be a short paragraph outlining the Board's policy on public participation at Board meetings.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3313.20

CROSS REFS.: BCE, Board Committees
BD, School Board Meetings
BDDDB, Agenda Format
BDDC, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

COMMUNITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Helping each student develop to his/her full potential and to become a citizen contributing to the welfare of the community are important objectives of the District's educational program. The Board encourages administrative and instructional personnel to rely on the community as one of its educational resources. The administration directs community instructional resources designed to involve the citizens, institutions and environment of our community in the education of its children.

The Superintendent has supervisory control over community relations, which includes school volunteer service. Members of the staff and of the community are encouraged to offer their ideas and services through the channels that the administration develops.

The Superintendent reports to the Board on the involvement and effectiveness of community relations.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: GBQ, Criminal Records Check
IICC, School Volunteers

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES
(Equal Access)

Although the basic purpose of public school premises is to provide the youth of the community a sound educational program, the complete function of education is not achieved until the school premises are made to serve the entire community. To accomplish this objective, when school premises are not in use for school purposes, the Board shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee and subject to the requirements of applicable regulations, permit the use of school premises for auxiliary, educational, recreational, cultural, civic, social, religious or other Board-approved purposes.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: May 26, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Title VIII, Section 801
ORC 3311.215
3313.75; 3313.76; 3313.77; 3313.78; 3313.79
4303.26

CROSS REFS.: KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
(Equal Access)

The Board encourages the community use of school facilities. It is necessary, however, to ensure that such use does not interfere with the regular school purposes, impose undue burden upon personnel or strain the limited funds allotted for building services and maintenance; therefore, specific regulations have been established.

Conditions Governing Use of School Facilities

1. An employee of the Board must be on duty whenever a school building or school stadium is used by an organization or group.
2. No building is used for corporate or nonschool-related personal financial gain.
3. No building is used for any fundraising activity unless the proceeds are for approved charitable, educational, character-building or other community welfare purposes.
4. Out-of-school groups do not begin with their activities until school is dismissed in the afternoon and the students have left the building.
5. On days when school is closed because of snow or other calamity, all activities scheduled for that date are held, canceled or postponed at the discretion of the Superintendent.
6. No group will, under any circumstances, tamper with any electrical or heating controls.
7. The kitchen is not used by any group unless arrangements are made to have one of the regular food service workers present.
8. There is no smoking in the building.
9. The Board reserves the right to require, if it should deem necessary, that groups using the building post a cash bond to cover any damages which might be done to any property, equipment or grounds.
10. The procedure for use of the football stadium follows the conditions outlined for the use of the buildings. Special emphasis is given to providing sufficient law enforcement protection and adult supervision.
11. School-sponsored student groups must have a teacher present at the activity. Nonschool-sponsored student groups must have a teacher present or an adult approved by the Superintendent.

12. Groups which use school facilities must possess liability insurance or sign a waiver of liability.

Applications

An application is necessary when a group or organization not part of the District wants to use a school building or grounds. An applicant must assure the Superintendent that the group/organization will comply with all regulations and respect the property, equipment and grounds of the school.

Applications are not required for activities such as school activities on school days which do not require the assignment of overtime to custodial personnel and which do not extend beyond the hour of 6:00 p.m. An application is not required for the principal's use of the building for such purposes as holding conferences or small group meetings of staff, parents or students. When the building is used without the services of the custodial staff, the principal is responsible for the care and security of the building.

A sponsoring organization or group must indicate that it:

1. intends to provide a program which promotes the welfare of the community and be for community purposes;
2. guarantees orderly behavior;
3. underwrites any damages due to its use of the premises;
4. pays for the use of equipment, property or grounds at the established rates and
5. possesses liability insurance or sign a waiver of liability.

Applications must be issued on a designated form. The following conditions are to be observed.

1. Afternoon meetings must end by 6:00 p.m. and evening meetings by 10:00 p.m.
2. Fees are assessed in accordance with a schedule adopted annually by the Board. The Board has the authority to waive fees as it deems appropriate.
3. Permission must be obtained from the principal for the use and re-arrangement of any school equipment or furniture. If such items are to be moved, they are moved by the using organization and replaced in the original location.

4. Food may be served provided that care is taken to ensure that the area used is left as clean as it was before the meeting.
5. Service from the custodial staff is to be limited to admitting the organization after its sponsor arrives, assisting the sponsor in an advisory capacity concerning the facilities to be used and closing up and properly securing the facilities when the organization has left.

Processing the Application

Application forms are available in the office of the Superintendent. The application of a community group to use a school building or facilities is filed with the Superintendent at least 30 days prior to the date of the proposed use.

After the application is cleared by the principal, it is sent back to the Superintendent at least 10 days in advance of anticipated use. The Superintendent arranges for special custodial or kitchen help. After checking for any type of District conflict on the composite calendar, the responsible school official notifies the applicant of the approval or disapproval of the request at least seven days in advance of the requested date of use.

Use of Special Equipment

Arrangements for the use of special equipment such as projectors, pianos, public address systems, scoreboard controls or other equipment belonging to a school must be made with the Superintendent at the time application is filed. The use of kitchen equipment for food preparation and sanitizing of dishes, utensils and tableware requires the assignment of a food service worker.

School equipment must be carefully maintained, accounted for and properly used since it involves a considerable expenditure. It is a general policy not to loan school equipment to outside groups. An exception may be made if a staff member accompanies the group and operates the equipment and the request is approved by the Superintendent.

(Approval date: January 24, 2011)

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
(Equal Access)

_____ (Indemnitor) agrees to indemnify and HOLD HARMLESS the Board of Education and its agents and employees from all liability, claims, demands, damages or costs for, or arising out of _____ (subject of indemnity) whether it be caused by the negligence of indemnitor or the _____ Board of Education or either party's agents or employees, or otherwise.

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

All persons on District grounds are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations.

No person on District property may assault, strike, threaten, menace or use improper, indecent or obscene language toward a teacher, instructor, other District employees or students at any time. This prohibition is extended to all athletic officials, coaches and athletes in the District and all visiting teams.

Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person is permitted to bring deadly weapons or dangerous ordnances into a school safety zone.

No person may disrupt, disturb or interfere with the teaching of any class of students or any other activity conducted in a school building or upon the campus or grounds at any time.

Whoever violates this policy and/or building regulations will be asked to leave the property by whoever is in charge. Should that person refuse, law enforcement officials will be called. If the offender should be a student, the person in charge should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state and local ordinances.

Good Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Board recognizes the value of cocurricular and extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the classroom.

Students and adults participating in cocurricular and extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and good conduct. The Board encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship in all phases of the educational process, including athletics and all other cocurricular and extracurricular activities. Rules are posted at the entryways to all athletic events for all participants and spectators to review.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921
ORC 2903.13; 2903.22
2911.21
2917.11
2923.1212; 2923.122
3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: GBCB, Staff Conduct
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGC, No Tobacco Use on District Property
KK, Visitors to the Schools

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board of Education prohibits visitors from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

The Superintendent shall refer a visitor who violates this policy to law enforcement officials and may take any necessary steps to exclude the visitor from Board property and Board-sponsored events, regardless of whether such visitor possesses a valid concealed weapon license.

Exceptions to this policy include:

1. weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel;
2. items approved by a principal as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose of and in the manner approved;
3. theatrical props used in appropriate settings;
4. starter pistols used in appropriate sporting events.

Public Attendance At School Events

The Board directs the Superintendent to post notices prohibiting the carrying and possession of concealed weapons in a school safety zone, including schools and school buildings, on school premises and school buses, and at school activities.

The Board of Education welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools in the District, but the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the District during the conduct of such events.

The Board holds the legal authority to bar the attendance of or remove any person whose conduct may constitute a disruption at a school event.

The Board directs that no alcoholic beverage or other controlled substances be consumed or distributed at any function sponsored by the District or at any function occurring on District premises

Guide dogs used by persons requiring this type of assistance shall be permitted in all District facilities and at all school events. The person must provide evidence of the dog's certification for the purpose. If the dog is still in training, proof of liability insurance is to be provided.

The Board is aware of the increasing desire of many parents and other members of an audience to use "cam-corders" and other audio/visual devices at school events. The Board authorizes the use of such devices providing their use does not interfere with the conduct of the particular activity, impinge on the enjoyment of the event by other members of the audience, or violate copyright or contract provisions related to a performance. The Superintendent shall establish rules and procedures governing the use on non-District audio/visual devices and equipment at any District-sponsored event or activity, particularly athletic events, dramatic presentations, and graduation ceremonies. Such rules are to be posted and/or distributed in such a manner that will best ensure cooperation and compliance in obtaining recordings that do not delay or disrupt the activity.

Any person or organization seeking to film students or a school activity which is not a public event shall obtain prior permission from the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all notices, signs, schedules, and other communications about school events contain the following statement:

"Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in this activity."

(Approval date: January 24, 2011)

NO TOBACCO USE ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff. The Board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products, both to users and nonusers, and that most tobacco use begins by the age of 18. The Board recognizes that staff and school visitors serve as role models to students and, therefore, adopts this 100% tobacco-free District policy to endorse a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use.

For the purpose of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette and any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew and snuff, in any form.

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No volunteer or school visitor is permitted to smoke, inhale, dip or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

1. in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the District or
2. on school grounds, athletic facilities or parking lots.

Tobacco Advertisements and Promotions

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including clothing, bags, lighters and other personal articles are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school-sponsored events.

Providing Notice

"No Tobacco" signs will be posted throughout the District at entrances and other appropriate locations in all academic buildings, administrative spaces and athletic fields. District vehicles will display the international "No Smoking" insignia. Announcements will be made during home athletic events both before the event and during intermission, as well as at all school functions where deemed appropriate. School programs will include a written reminder of the no tobacco use on District property policy.

Enforcement

Citizens failing to comply with this policy are educated as to State law and the Board's policy on smoking. Persons refusing to extinguish smoking materials are directed to leave school property and may be fined by the Ohio Department of Health or its designees.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Goals 2000: Educate America Act; 20 USC 6081 through 6084
ORC 3313.20
3794.01; 3794.02; 3794.03(F); 3794.04; 3794.06
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: GBK, No Tobacco Use on District Property by Staff Members
JFCG, Tobacco Use by Students
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE DISTRICT

Gifts, grants or bequests are accepted by the Board provided the conditions of acceptance do not remove any portion of the control of the District from the Board.

Any person or organization desiring to give a gift or make a grant or bequest to the Board must contact the Superintendent, who submits the request to the Board.

Proposals for giving funds, equipment or materials to the District with a “matching” agreement or restriction are discouraged. Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board’s policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

Whenever the District has an established project, contributions which reduce the cost or hasten the completion are welcome.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 9.20
3313.17; 3313.36

CROSS REF.: BHD, Board Member Compensation and Expenses

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

No person may sell or offer for sale within school buildings or on school property any articles or services or solicit contributions except those approved by the Superintendent or the Board. This policy does not prohibit any school fundraising activity authorized by the Superintendent or other appropriate building administrator.

Salespeople representing educational companies may be granted the opportunity to speak to teachers by making arrangements through the principal's office. Such appointments must not interfere with the classroom work of the teachers.

The school directory or lists of students are not made available to any outside person or agency for a profit-making purpose.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2921.43
3319.321

CROSS REFS.: GBI, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KK, Visitors to the Schools

ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

Notices, advertisements or written matter of any nature on behalf of persons or organizations not officially connected with the District shall not be distributed or displayed in any school building or on District property without permission of the Superintendent. All notices, including those by personnel, shall be approved by the building principal and, in case of doubt, by the Superintendent. Appeal of the Superintendent's decision may be made to the Board.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
IGDB, Student Publications
IIBH, District Websites

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Board encourages parents and other citizens of the District to visit classrooms to observe the work of the schools and to learn what the schools are doing. Visits should be scheduled with the teacher, in advance, to avoid any unnecessary disruption to classroom instruction or activities.

To maintain the safety of students and staff and to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings, all visitors must first report to the main office to receive authorization to visit. (Authorization is not needed for school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events.)

All participants and spectators of school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations pertaining to public conduct on District property.

School principals and their designees are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent and remove, if necessary, unauthorized persons from entering District buildings, loitering on the grounds and/or creating disturbances anywhere on District property.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: BG, Board-Staff Communications
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

RECRUITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

All recruiters, military, employment and educational, are treated uniformly in the conduct of on-campus student recruitment. Scheduling of recruiting visits to the District is announced to the student body in advance. Recruiters are afforded the opportunity to conduct meetings during the school day with those students who are interested.

All group meetings are scheduled through the principal's office. Classroom teachers who schedule recruiters as a career awareness activity should coordinate these activities through the principal's office.

In order to maintain the privacy of students, the Board prohibits the disclosure of any student list to any commercial organization which intends to use the list for commercial purposes. "Student list" is defined as Board-approved directory information. "Commercial organization" is defined as any entity which is a for-profit organization. "Commercial purpose" is defined as any activity which is an attempt to solicit business for profit.

Names and addresses of students in grades 10 through 12 must be released to a recruiting officer of the armed forces unless a parent or student (age 18 or older) submits a written request not to release the information.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
20 USC 7908
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232g
National Defense Authorization Act: 10 USC 503: (P.L. No. 107)
ORC 149.41; 149.43
1347.01 et seq.
3317.031
3319.32; 3319.321
3321.12; 3321.13
3331.13

CROSS REFS.: JO, Student Records
JOA, Student Surveys
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Constructive criticism of the District is welcomed by the Board. Although no member of the community is denied the right to bring his/her complaints to the Board, he/she is referred to the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the Board. Exceptions may be made when the complaints concern Board actions or Board operations.

The Board believes that complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The staff should be given the opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problems prior to involvement by the Board. The proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline or learning materials is employee, principal, Superintendent and then the Board of Education.

If a complaint, which was presented to the Board and referred through the proper channels, is resolved before it comes back to the Board, a report of the disposition of the matter is made to the Board and then placed in the official files.

The Board expects the staff to receive complaints courteously and to make a proper reply to the complainant.

Matters referred to the Superintendent and/or Board must be in writing and are expected to be specific in terms of the action desired.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REF.: KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Any person or group having a legitimate interest in the operations of this District shall have the right to present a request, suggestion, or complaint concerning District personnel, the program, or the operations of the District. At the same time, the Board of Education has a duty to protect its staff from unnecessary harassment. It is the intent of this policy to provide the means for judging each public complaint in a fair and impartial manner and to seek a remedy where appropriate.

It is the desire of the Board to rectify any misunderstandings between the public and the District by direct discussions of an informal type among the interested parties. It is only when such informal meetings fail to resolve the differences, shall more formal procedures be employed.

Any requests, suggestions, or complaints reaching the Board, Board members, and the administration shall be referred to the Superintendent for consideration according to the following procedure.

Matters Regarding a Certificated/Licensed Staff Member

First Level

If it is a matter specifically directed toward a certificated/licensed staff member, the matter must be addressed, initially, to the concerned staff member who shall discuss it promptly with the complainant and make every effort to provide a reasoned explanation or take appropriate action within his/her authority and District administrative guidelines.

This level does not apply if the matter involves suspected child abuse, substance abuse, or any other serious allegation which may require investigation or inquiry by school officials prior to approaching the certificated/licensed staff member.

As appropriate, the staff member shall report the matter and whatever action may have been taken to the building principal.

Second Level

If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the First Level, it shall be discussed by the complainant with the staff member's supervisor and in compliance with provisions of a collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

Third Level

If a satisfactory solution is not achieved by discussion with the building principal, a written request for a conference shall be submitted to the Superintendent. This request should include:

1. the specific nature of the complaint and a brief statement of the facts giving rise to it;
2. the respect in which it is alleged that the complainant (or child of the complainant) has been affected adversely and
3. the action which the complainant wishes taken and the reasons why it is felt that such action be taken.

Should the matter be resolved in conference with the Superintendent, the Board shall be advised of the resolution.

Fourth Level

Should the matter still not be resolved, or if it is one beyond the Superintendent's authority and requires a Board decision or action, the complainant shall request, in writing, a meeting by the Board.

The Board, after reviewing all material relating to the case, shall grant a meeting before the Board.

The complainant shall be advised, in writing, of the Board's decision, no more than 10 business days following the meeting.

Matters Regarding an Administrative Staff Member

Since administrators are considered members of the District's certificated/licensed staff, the general procedure specified in "Matters Regarding a Certificated/Licensed Staff Member" shall be followed.

Matters Regarding the Superintendent or Treasurer

Should the matter be a concern regarding the Superintendent or Treasurer which cannot be resolved through discussion with the Superintendent or Treasurer, the complainant may submit a written request to the Board President for a conference with the Board. This request shall include:

1. the specific nature of the complaint and a brief statement of the facts giving rise to it;
2. the respect in which it is alleged that the complainant (or child of the complainant) has been affected adversely;

3. the reason that the matter was not able to be resolved with the Superintendent or Treasurer and
4. the action which the complainant wishes taken and the reasons why it is felt that such action should be taken.

The Board, after reviewing the request, may grant a meeting before the Board, or a committee of the Board, or refer the matter, if permitted by State law, to an executive session.

The complainant shall be advised, in writing, of the Board's decision within 30 business days.

If the complainant contacts an individual Board member to discuss the matter, the Board member shall inform the complainant that he/she has no authority to act in his/her individual capacity and that the complainant must follow the procedure described in this policy.

Matters Regarding a Classified Staff Member

In the case of a classified staff member, the complaint is to be directed, initially, toward the person's supervisor, and the matter then brought as required to higher levels in the same manner as prescribed for "Matters Regarding a Certificated/Licensed Staff Member".

Matters Regarding District Services or Operations

If the request, suggestion, or complaint relates to a matter of District procedure or operation, it should be addressed, initially, to the building principal and then brought, in turn, to higher levels of authority in the manner prescribed in "Matters Regarding a Certificated/Licensed Staff Member".

Matters Regarding the Educational Program

If the request, suggestion, or complaint relates to a matter of District program, it should be addressed, initially, to the building principal and then brought, in turn, to higher levels of authority in the manner prescribed in "Matters Regarding a Certificated/Licensed Staff Member."

Matters Regarding Instructional Materials

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines addressing students' and parents' rights to be adequately informed each year regarding their ability to inspect instructional materials and the procedure for completing such an inspection.

If the request, suggestion, or complaint relates to instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, reference works, and other instructional aids used in the District, the following procedure shall be followed:

The criticism is to be addressed to the Superintendent, in writing, and shall include:

1. author;
2. title;
3. publisher;
4. the complainant's familiarity with the material objected to;
5. sections objected to, by page and item and
6. reasons for objection.

Upon receipt of the information, the Superintendent shall, after advising the Board of Education of the complaint, appoint a review committee which may consist of:

1. one or more certificated/licensed staff members including a teacher in the subject area;
2. one or more Board members and/or
3. one or more lay persons knowledgeable in the area.

The Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the committee.

The committee, in evaluating the questioned material, shall be guided by the following criteria:

1. the appropriateness of the material for the age and maturity level of the students with whom it is being used;
2. the accuracy of the material;
3. the objectivity of the material and
4. the use being made of the material.

The material in question may not be withdrawn from use pending the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent.

The committee's recommendation shall be reported to the Superintendent in writing within 10 business days following the formation of the committee. The Superintendent will advise the complainant, in writing, of the committee's recommendation and advise the Board of the action taken or recommended.

The complainant may appeal this decision, within 30 business days, to the Board through a written request to the Superintendent, who shall forward the request and all written material relating to the matter to the Board.

The Board shall review the case in public session and advise the complainant, in writing, of its decision within 10 business days.

No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REFS.: KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the certificated/licensed staff to select books and other materials supportive of the Board's educational philosophy and goals.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the District may be expected from time to time. In such instances, the following guidelines shall apply.

1. If a parent requests that his/her own child not read a given book, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the issue, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose.
2. The Board does not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but it recognizes that, at times, a re-evaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use, the following steps are taken.
 - A. The person who objects to the book or other material is asked to sign a complaint on a standard form documenting his/her criticism.
 - B. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Superintendent provides for a re-evaluation of the material in question. He/She arranges for the appointment of a review committee from among the faculty and community to consider the complaint.
 - C. The Superintendent reviews the complaint and the committee's re-evaluation and renders a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, it may be appealed to the Board.

The Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials which it makes available to students, and it holds its certificated/licensed staff accountable for their proper selections. The Board also recognizes rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children and provides for the re-evaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3329.07; 3329.08; 3329.09

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials
IIAA, Textbook Selection and Adoption
IIAC, Library Materials Selection and Adoption
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
KL, Public Complaints

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
LIBRARY/CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Type of material (book, film, pamphlet, etc.) _____

Author _____

Title _____

Publisher (if known) _____

Request initiated by _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Complainant represents: Self _____

Organization _____

Other _____

1. To what do you object? (Be specific, cite pages, frames) _____

2. What do you believe might be the result of reading or seeing this material? _____

3. For what age group do you recommend this material? _____

4. Is there anything good about this material? _____

5. Did you read or see the entire material? _____

What parts? _____

6. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by professional critics? _____

7. What do you believe is the theme of this material? _____

8. What would you like your school to do about this material? _____

Do not assign it to my child.

Withdraw it from all students as well as my child.

Restrict it to more mature students.

Send it back for re-evaluation.

Signature of Complainant

RELATIONS WITH PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education appreciates the efforts of all organizations whose objectives are to enhance the educational experiences of District students, to help meet educational needs of students, and/or provide extra educational benefits not provided for, at the time, by the Board.

District support organizations are defined as any non-profit entity, group, or other organization formed and operating for the purpose of supporting District programs.

The Board shall offer the opportunity for any authorized school support entity to receive coverage under the District's liability insurance program to protect the entity against claims resulting from damage or injury resulting from any act or omission of any school support entity. The entity shall pay for such coverage upon written notification from the Treasurer.

The following rules and procedures shall govern the working relationships between the Board, administration, and any District support organization.

1. In addition to parents, membership shall be made available to District staff and members of the community.
2. Each District support organization shall work in cooperation with the principal and other staff members and shall abide by the policies of the Board.
3. It shall be the responsibility of each District support organization to monitor its activities to assure compliance with Board Policy.
4. Each District support organization shall submit its bylaws to the Superintendent for review and approval.
5. The activities of District support organizations shall not involve the use of public funds and the District shall not assume responsibility for any purchases made on behalf of any support organization governed by this policy. The school district tax identification number shall not be used for District support organization purchases.
6. The time, date, purpose, location and conduct of all fundraisers on District property shall have prior approval of the administration. District support organizations are encouraged to communicate their preferred activity dates to the administration as soon as possible as consideration for dates and facilities will be given on a first come, first served basis.

7. Each District support organization must abide by the policies and guidelines established for the use of District facilities and grounds. Projects that require any modification or alteration to District property must be pre-approved by the Superintendent.
8. Proceeds from District support organization fundraisers shall not be commingled with a student activity or other Board accounts. Board employees who commingle such proceeds with a student activity or other Board account shall be subject to discipline.
9. The Superintendent shall implement administrative guidelines that require each District support organization's fundraising activities be in compliance with Board policies and that the funds generated by such fundraising activities and donated to the District are used for school-related projects that have the approval of the Superintendent and principal.
10. District support organizations shall not hire, contract with, or compensate any person working directly with students.
11. Donations from District support organizations must be made in accordance with Board policy and any accompanying guidelines.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.17; 3313.20; 3313.36; 3313.47

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives
KH, Public Gifts to the District
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KJ, Advertising in the Schools
KMB, Relations with Booster Organizations

RELATIONS WITH BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The Board recognizes that the endeavors and objectives of booster organizations can be a valuable means of stimulating interest and endorsement of the aims and achievements of the District. Booster organizations must be formally approved by the Board on an annual bases. Care must be taken to avoid compromising or diluting the responsibility and authority of the Board.

Annually, booster organizations must submit to the Superintendent/designee their tentative goals, objectives, projects and/or activities along with their fundraising plans for the next school year and any changes made during the school year for review by the Board.

The Board retains final authority over all plans, projects and activities involving District students.

Booster organizations must abide by all District policies and rules as well as the following list.

1. Booster organizations shall not use the school's tax ID number.
2. Booster organizations shall not accept checks made out to the school and vice versa.
3. District officials shall have a liaison role in booster organizations.
4. Fundraising activities shall not occur on school premises or during school hours unless permission has been given by the Superintendent/designee.
5. Documentation on ownership of property and fundraising activities is required.
6. The use of the District name and emblems must be authorized.
7. Booster organizations must submit their bylaws as well as quarterly reports on income, expenses and balance sheets to the Superintendent for review and approval.

Booster organizations must have permission from the Board prior to any construction of facilities. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, that funds are available to complete the project.

Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

[Adoption date: January 24, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47

CROSS REFS.: IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management
KG, Community Use of School Premises (Equal Access)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KK, Visitors to the Schools
KMA, Relations with Parent Organizations